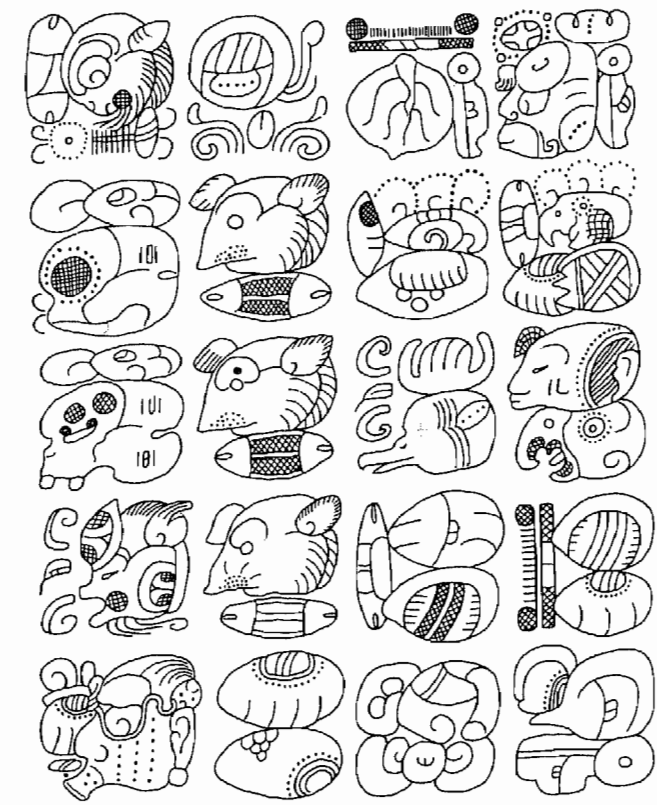


CORPUS OF **MAYA**
HIEROGLYPHIC INSCRIPTIONS



VOLUME 3 PART 1 YAXCHILAN

CORPUS
OF
MAYA
HIEROGLYPHIC
INSCRIPTIONS

Volume 3 Part 1

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1977

OTHER NAMES FOR THE SITE	Usumacinta	La Ville Lorillard
	Menché Tinamit	Lorillard City
	Menché	Lorillard Town

LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Usumacinta River, in its middle reaches, runs in a bed that is cut deeply into hilly terrain and follows a fairly straight northwesterly course toward the Gulf of Mexico. In two places, however, the river has been forced into detours having the form of great loops, both of them, as it happens, destined to have important ceremonial centers built upon their banks. On the right bank of one lies Piedras Negras, while on the other, about 50 km upstream and halfway around the more perfectly formed of the two loops, lies Yaxchilan. The smoothly curving course of this loop traces the form of a capital omega, its neck no more than 500 m across, its diameter about 3.5 km.

In this region the river flows, for the most part, between sandy terraces of varying width, but on the order of 100 m wide, at the back of which rise up escarpments or irregular masses of karst-formation hills. It is along a stretch of such a terrace, about 1 km in length, and on the ledges and prominences overlooking it, that Yaxchilan was built.

Until recently, access to Yaxchilan had not been easy. The river, it is true, does provide a year-round means of communication, but only in the up-stream direction. Passage in a dugout canoe through the rapids of Anaite, about 20 km downstream, and through other rapids at about the same distance farther on, between El Cayo and Piedras Negras, is at best unnerving; at other times, when the level of the river is not propitious, the journey cannot be recommended at all. Rapids below Piedras Negras make the journey onward to Tenosique impossible at all times.

Upstream, it is a two-day journey (except by speedboat) to Sayaxche, and an expert boatman who knows all the shallows and rocky snags must be employed.

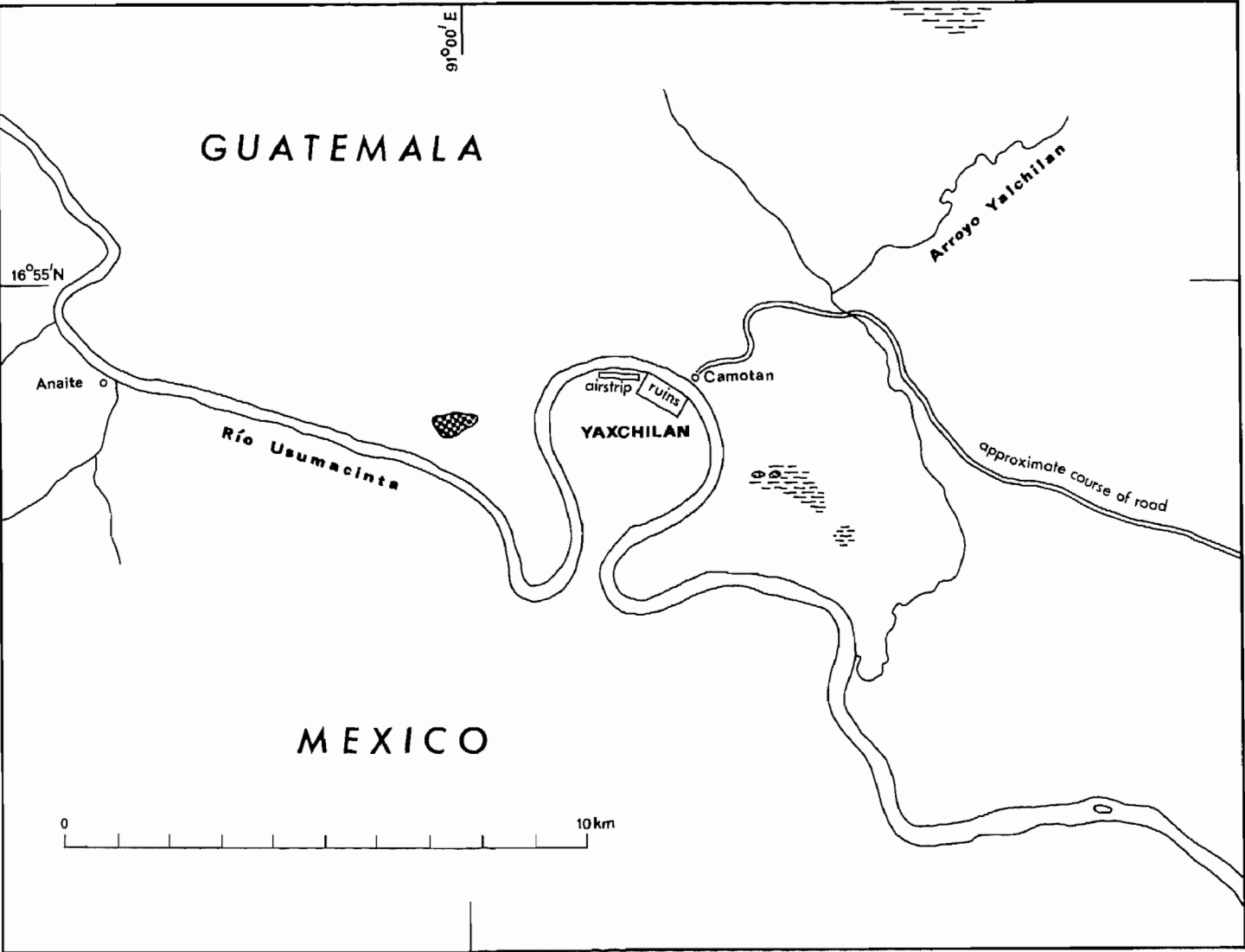
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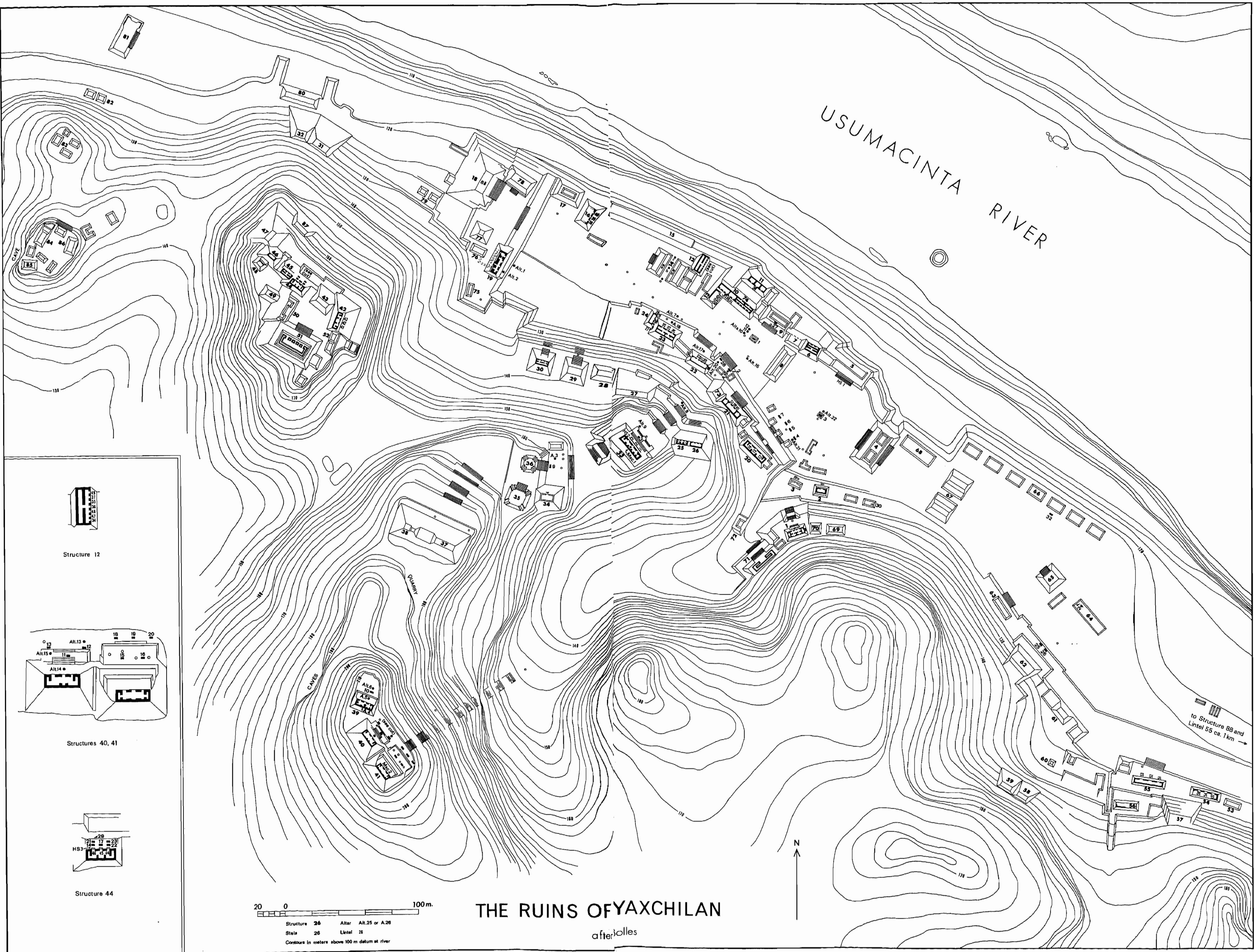
Publication of this fascicle was made possible through the generosity of:

- Mrs. Katherine Benedict
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Fifiel
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- Mrs. A. Murray Vaughan

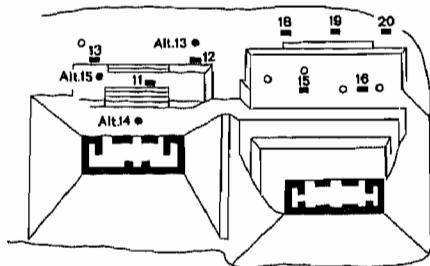
Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico for their cooperation in authorizing the necessary work at Yaxchilan, and for their permission to reproduce photographs of all the sculpture in this section, except for Lintels 15, 16, 17, 24, and 25; in respect to these, thanks are due to the Trustees of the British Museum for their kindness. The expenses of this fieldwork were borne by the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation of New York, and by Mr. David Rockefeller; the text and most of the illustrations were prepared during the period of a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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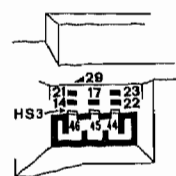




Structure 12



Structures 40, 41



Structure 44

20 0 100m.
Structure 26 Altar Alt. 25 or A. 26
Stela 26 Lintel 26
Contours in meters above 100 m datum at river

THE RUINS OF YAXCHILAN

after Colles

Until recently the only overland route in regular use, since mahogany-cutting along the river began more than a century ago, had been through Guatemalan territory on the other side of the river, passing through Macabilerio, Piedras Negras, and Tres Champas, crossing the border there and proceeding to Tenosique. It is a four-day walk.

Since 1974, however, motor vehicles have been reaching the riverbank opposite Yaxchilan over a track that starts at Paso Subin, a settlement on the road between Flores and Sayaxche. The track was seldom passable, but now, at the time of writing, it is being improved.

Yaxchilan may also be reached by light plane. The landing strip is on the terrace west of Structure 81.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE SITE

The existence of the ruins now called Yaxchilan seems to have been known, at least by vague report, among Mexican settlers in the lower Usumacinta drainage since the early nineteenth century. What may be the first published expression of those rumors was made in 1833 by Juan Galindo in his report on the Pasion and Usumacinta rivers. "Within an extensive cave on the left bank," he wrote, "are some extraordinary and extensive ruins; and somewhat lower down the stream there is a remarkable monumental stone, with characters" (Galindo 1833, p. 60). As this section of Galindo's report seems not to have been based on his own observations, one may perhaps speculate that the word *curva*, in notes written by an informant, was misread by him as *cueva*. The "remarkable monumental stone" could well have been at El Cayo.

The first visitor to Yaxchilan coming with an educated eye was undoubtedly Edwin Rockstroh, an instructor at the Colegio Nacional, Guatemala City. At some time after his visit in 1881 he evidently wrote an account of the site (Maudslay 1889-1902, vol. 5, p. 40). As is mentioned in the text on Lintel 24 (page 3:54), Rockstroh attempted to carry that lintel away. He also, according to Maudslay's friend Joyce, "gave [the site] the name Menché after the eponymous ancestor, Bol Menché, of the local Maya inhabitants. Maudslay naturally adopted the name" (Joyce 1923, p. 42*n*).

After hearing about the ruins from Rockstroh, Alfred Maudslay made a detour from his route to Tikal to see them. During his week's stay there, by extraordinary coincidence, he was joined by Désiré Charnay, who had come from the opposite direction. Before the end of that year, 1882, Maudslay had read a paper in which his discoveries were briefly described (Maudslay 1883), the ruins being there referred to simply as "Usumacinta"; perhaps at the time of their meeting Rockstroh had not yet decided on the name Menché, or Menché Tinamit.

The various appellations by which Charnay chose to dignify at once the ruins and his patron were: La Ville Lorillard, Villa Lorillard, and in the English version of his book, Lorillard Town and Lorillard City (Charnay 1885).

An important consequence of Maudslay's meeting with Charnay was that he learned from the latter the technique of making paper molds. In 1886 Maudslay sent his assistant Gorgonio López back to Yaxchilan to make molds by this process and to remove certain lintels, under a permit granted by the Government of Guatemala, within the borders of which the ruins were considered at that time to lie. These pieces were sent to London, and are now in the British Museum.

There is one exception: the front edge of one lintel was sent by mistake to Berlin. Maudslay published a photograph of a cast of this piece (Maudslay 1889-1902, vol. 2, pl. 98). Its provenience has never been known. In a letter to C. P. Bowditch from Merida, October 3, 1903 (Peabody Museum Archives), Maler attributed this lintel, which he designated as Lintel 47, to the central doorway of Structure 9, but it is clear that the stone shaft he saw was really Stela 27. I, however, found a lintel with its front edge cut off lying

between Structures 74 and 11. The dimensions of the sawn face correspond with those of the plaster cast (the original was destroyed during World War II). The exact position of the lintel was not recorded, but I remember it as lying close to the northeast corner of Structure 74. However, it is probable that it came from Structure 11; a note on a manuscript version of Maudslay's site plan (British Museum, Dept. of Ethnography) refers to House C (Structure 11) as a "much ruined house, 2 lintels in position with hieroglyphs." At the time of writing, there is no means of determining which doorway in the building it came from, so that its placing in the site plan given here is arbitrary. Its designation as Lintel 56 is due to Morley.

The most extensive report on Yaxchilan is that of Teobert Maler. Following a brief visit in 1895, Maler returned to the ruins in 1897, spending the months of July and August digging out fallen stelae and lintels and photographing them. On this visit he discovered Structures 39-41. Maler's work was completed during the months of January to March 1900, while he was working under the auspices of the Peabody Museum. In addition to photographs, Maler took a number of paper molds during that visit, the casts from which are in the Peabody Museum; unfortunately they do not show fine detail. Maler's report, with its superb photographs, was published three years later (Maler 1903).

Unwilling to adopt the name used by Maudslay for the ruins, Maler devised another: Yaxchilan Xlabpak (letter to Bowditch, May 11, 1897, Peabody Museum Archives), the "Xlabpak" being later, and rather mercifully, dropped. Maler admittedly had grounds for rejecting the linguistically hybrid combination of Menché with Tinamit (Maudslay, it may be noted, never wrote "Menché Tinamit" in his text; his only use of it was on his site plan), but "Yaxchilan" is no less objectionable, and should never have been adopted.

Morley paid two brief visits to Yaxchilan in 1914, and a third lasting a month in April-May 1931, when several new inscriptions were recorded. During this third sojourn he was accompanied by Karl Ruppert and John Bolles, the latter being responsible for surveying the ruins to produce the plan published by Morley (1937-38, vol. 5, pl. 201).

Linton Satterthwaite spent a week working at Yaxchilan in 1934, and two weeks in 1935, when he discovered Lintels 57, 58, and 59.

A more detailed account of investigations at Yaxchilan by those already mentioned, and by others, is given by Morley (*ibid.*, vol. 2, pp. 342-344). Doubt, however, may be cast on his view that "the first European known to have visited the site would seem to have been the Maestro de Campo Jacobo de Alçayaga," in 1696. Morley writes that Alçayaga and his party left Dolores and set off down the Lacantun River in fifteen large canoes, traveling "downstream to the confluence of the Lacantun and the Usumacinta, and then probably down the latter for some 550 km (140 leagues) in a vain search for Lake Peten Itza. While exploring the banks of the Usumacinta, they discovered Yaxchilan"; Villagutierre's account of the soldiers' coming upon ancient ruins near the river is then quoted. The chief difficulty with this is that Villagutierre expressly states that from the mouth of the Lacantun the flotilla went *upstream* (Villagutierre 1701, p. 362).

For three decades after the work of Morley and Satterthwaite, nothing worthy of note occurred at Yaxchilan, other than the steady erosion of sculptures that now lay exposed for the first time to rain and moss. Photographs show, for example, that in 1931 the design on one side of the large lowermost fragment of Stela 7 was still in excellent condition, although the design on the other side was almost obliterated; by 1970 both sides were almost equally eroded.

An aspect that more than counterbalanced the neglect of conservation during this period was the nearly total absence of looting. This was due to the wise decision of the Mexican authorities to install a guardian, Ulises de

la Cruz, some of whose sons and grandsons have followed in his footsteps. While I cannot claim to have inventoried the sculpture yet, I know of only one significant (and lamentable) loss: the upper step from the central doorway of Structure 44.

In 1966, a number of stelae and lintels were transported by boat to Agua Azul, and thence by air to Mexico City, for installation in the new Museo Nacional de Antropología. Among the pieces removed was Stela 11, which was found, upon delivery at Agua Azul, to be too large and too heavy for the aircraft. It was later brought back to Yaxchilan by Gertrude Duby de Blom, and is lying at present under a protective roof to the east of Structure 5.

In 1973, a program of restoration at Yaxchilan was initiated by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, with Roberto García Mol appointed field director the following year. At the time of writing, Structures 6, 19, and 33 have been consolidated; excavation in front of Structure 33 has revealed a step composed of thirteen carved blocks, designated HS2 in the present work; the well-preserved lower portion of the incised stalactite noticed by Maler in front of the same structure was also found, and is designated as Stela 31; and the carved altar on the north side of Stela 3, shown by Maler on his plan and in his figure 46*c*, but apparently not seen by Morley, has come to light. It is here designated as Altar 22.

One sculpture ascribed to this site must be rejected, the so-called Yaxchilan Lintel 60 (Barthel 1966). This lintel can instead be confidently attributed to a small site named La Pasadita, situated to the north of Yaxchilan, in Guatemalan territory.

My work of recording the sculpture of Yaxchilan has been carried out during numerous short visits, from 1970 onward.

NOTES ON THE RUINS

For a general description of the ruins, the reader is referred to the rather detailed account of Bolles (Morley 1937-38, vol. 2, pp. 351-360).

A NOTE ON THE PLAN OF THE RUINS

The site plan provided in this volume has been copied from that published by Morley (1937-38, vol. 5, pl. 201), which is based on the survey by Bolles. Small changes have been made, several of them in accordance with data incorporated by Morley in his great work subsequent to the drafting of the plan.

Morley's separate symbols for sculptured and unsculptured altars have been retained, even though the latter is identical with the symbol for chultun given in volume 1, appendix B, of the *Corpus* (there are in fact no chultuns at Yaxchilan). The manner of representing buildings, and lintels in them, is likewise not in accord with those given in the same place.

The plain altars have not been given numbers, but the one plain stela has been designated as Stela 32.

On top of the famous masonry "pier" constructed on the rocky edge of the river's central channel there lies a slab which may well have been an altar. It is not, however, marked as such on the plan.

It is hoped that before very long a new survey will be undertaken, so that a more detailed plan can be issued with a later section of this work.

REGISTER OF INSCRIPTIONS AT YAXCHILAN

- Lintels 1-10
- 12-22
- 24-59
- Hieroglyphic Stairways 1-3
- Stelae 1-31
- Altars 1-22
- Ball-court Sculptures 1-5
- Miscellaneous 1, 2

NOTES

1. Although in this work stelae are generally treated before lintels, practical considerations here require their relegation to third place.
2. Lintels 11 and 23, provided for by Maler, appear never to have existed.
3. Hieroglyphic Stairways 1 to 3 are those of Structures 5, 33, and 44, respectively.
4. Miscellaneous 1 is the statue in Structure 33; Miscellaneous 2 is the inscription on the façade of Structure 41.
5. Ball-court Sculptures 1 to 5 are marked on the plan with the designations given them by Morley, viz., *a* to *e*.
6. Lintel 19 is at present precariously poised over a doorway nearly filled with debris, and thus is impossible to photograph. Inspection shows Morley's drawing (1937-38, vol. 2, fig. 60) of the one remaining glyph to be essentially accurate. When a photograph becomes available, a description of the lintel will be issued in a later section of this work.

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Yaxchilan, Lintel 1

YAX: Lnt. 1

3:13

LOCATION In situ over the left (southeast) doorway of Structure 33, set with the top of the sculpture toward the northwest.

CONDITION Intact and very well preserved, although at times obscured by white lichen. Traces of color noted by Maler are no longer apparent.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE Carved surface is flat; edges are not quite parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.94 m
	HSc	0.82 m
	WSc	0.83 m
	MTh	0.40 m
	Rel	0.7 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on field drawing corrected by artificial light.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 2

YAX: Lnt. 2

3:15

LOCATION In situ over the central doorway of Structure 33, set with the top of the sculpture toward the northwest.

CONDITION Intact and very well preserved, although at times obscured by lichen. Traces of color noted by Maler are no longer apparent.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

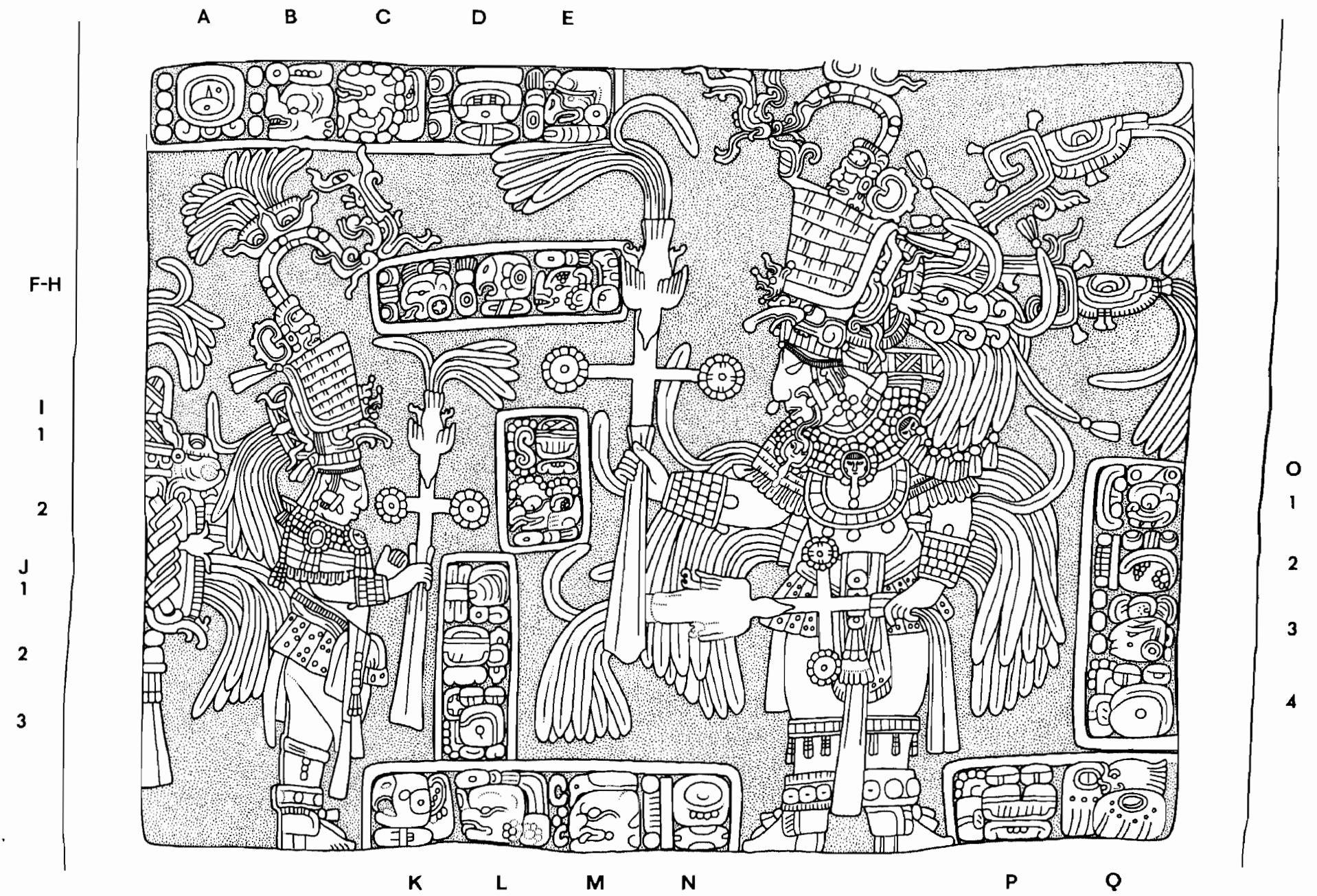
SHAPE Carved surface is flat; edges are nearly parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	1.13 m
	HSc	0.75 m
	WSc	0.98 m
	MTh	0.37 m
	Rel	0.8 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, of plaster cast made by him.

DRAWING Graham, based on plaster cast.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 3

YAX: Lnt. 3

3:17

LOCATION In situ over the right-hand (northwest) doorway of Structure 33, set with the top of the sculpture toward the northwest.

CONDITION Intact and very well preserved. Of the traces of color noted by Maler only a small amount of red remains.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

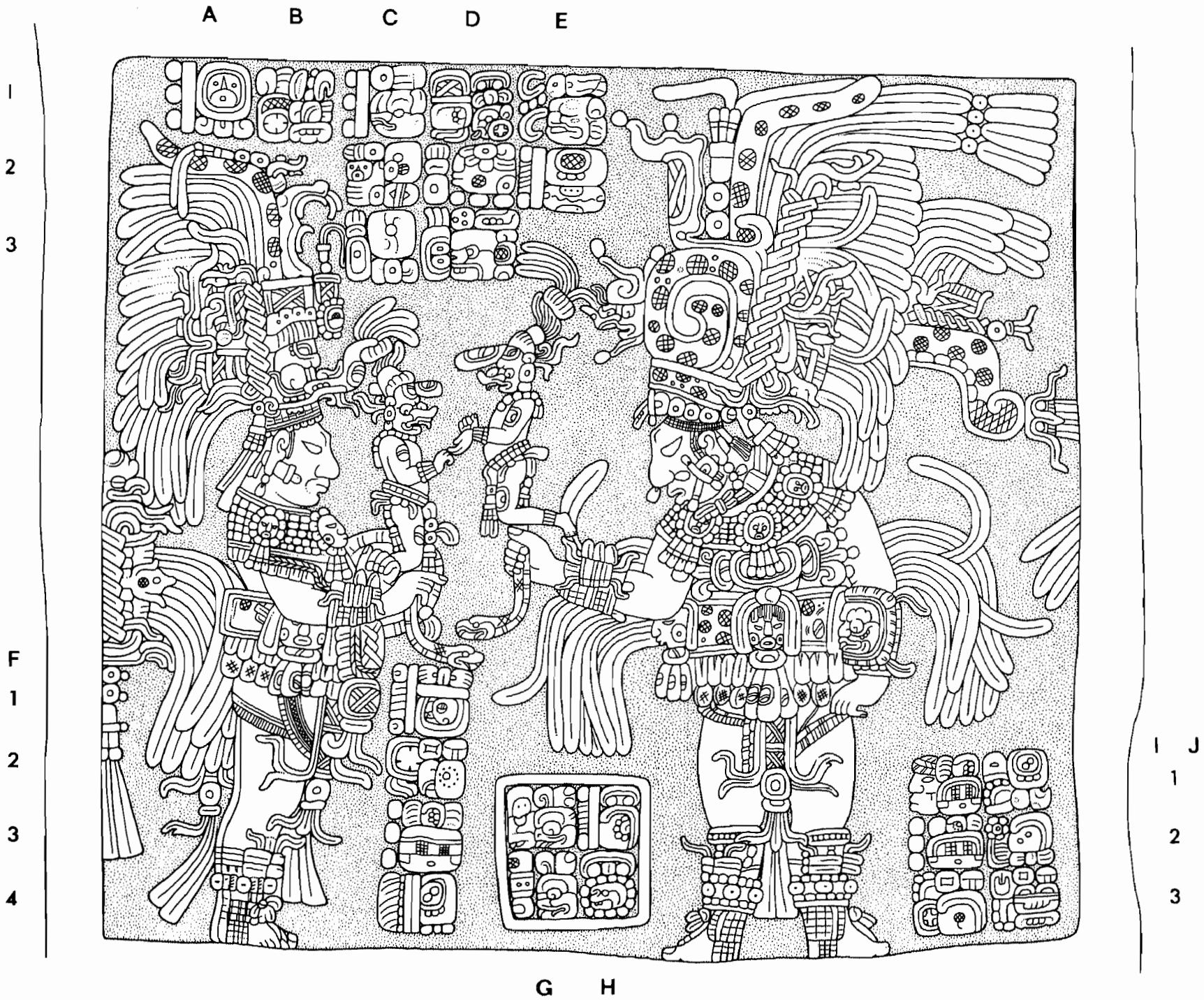
SHAPE Carved surface is flat; edges are nearly parallel.

DIMENSIONS MW 0.96 m
HSc 0.85 m
WSc 0.80 m
MTh 0.38 m
Rel 0.5 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on plaster cast.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 4

LOCATION This lintel, which is made up of two slabs, was found by Maler in debris on the north side of Structure 34. The number of doorways once existing in this structure is uncertain, but Maler mentions another two-part lintel found close to it, the carving of which was nearly obliterated.

CONDITION The left (inner) half was in mediocre condition when found; since then it has undergone further severe erosion. The other half is described by Maler as having sculpture "so thoroughly demolished that it could not be photographed."

MATERIAL Limestone.

SHAPE The outer beam of the lintel is reported to have a rectangular cross section, whereas the other has a beveled inner edge, presumably so as to lie flush with vaulting that sprang from the level of the lintel's underside.

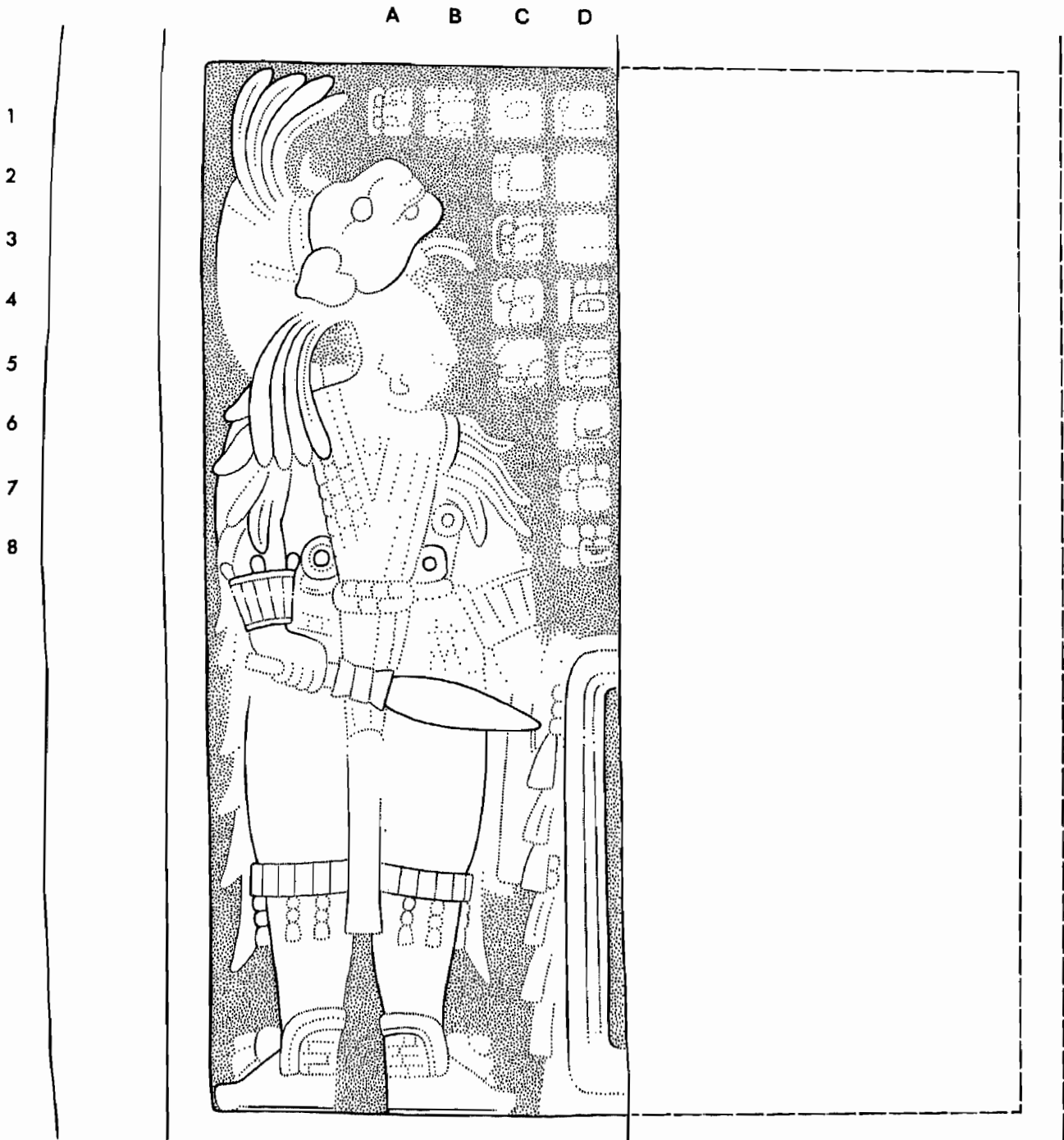
DIMENSIONS	MW	0.97 m
	HSc	1.11 m
	WSc	0.87 m (estimated)
	MTh	0.32 m
	Rel	2.0 cm

NOTE The figure for MW given here refers to the lower surface; the greater breadth of the upper surface was not measured.

CARVED AREAS Underside only, apparently.

PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on photographs by Maler, Morley, and Graham.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 5

LOCATION Found by Maler in debris in front of the left (east) doorway of the north-facing front of Structure 1.

CONDITION Broken in two when found. The larger piece was evidently in good condition, whereas the smaller showed some erosion. Since then, the larger piece has deteriorated somewhat.

MATERIAL Limestone.

SHAPE The sculptured surface is flat; the sides are parallel and well finished.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.84 m
	HSc	0.90 m
	WSc	0.73 m
	MTh	0.40 m
	Rel	0.3 cm

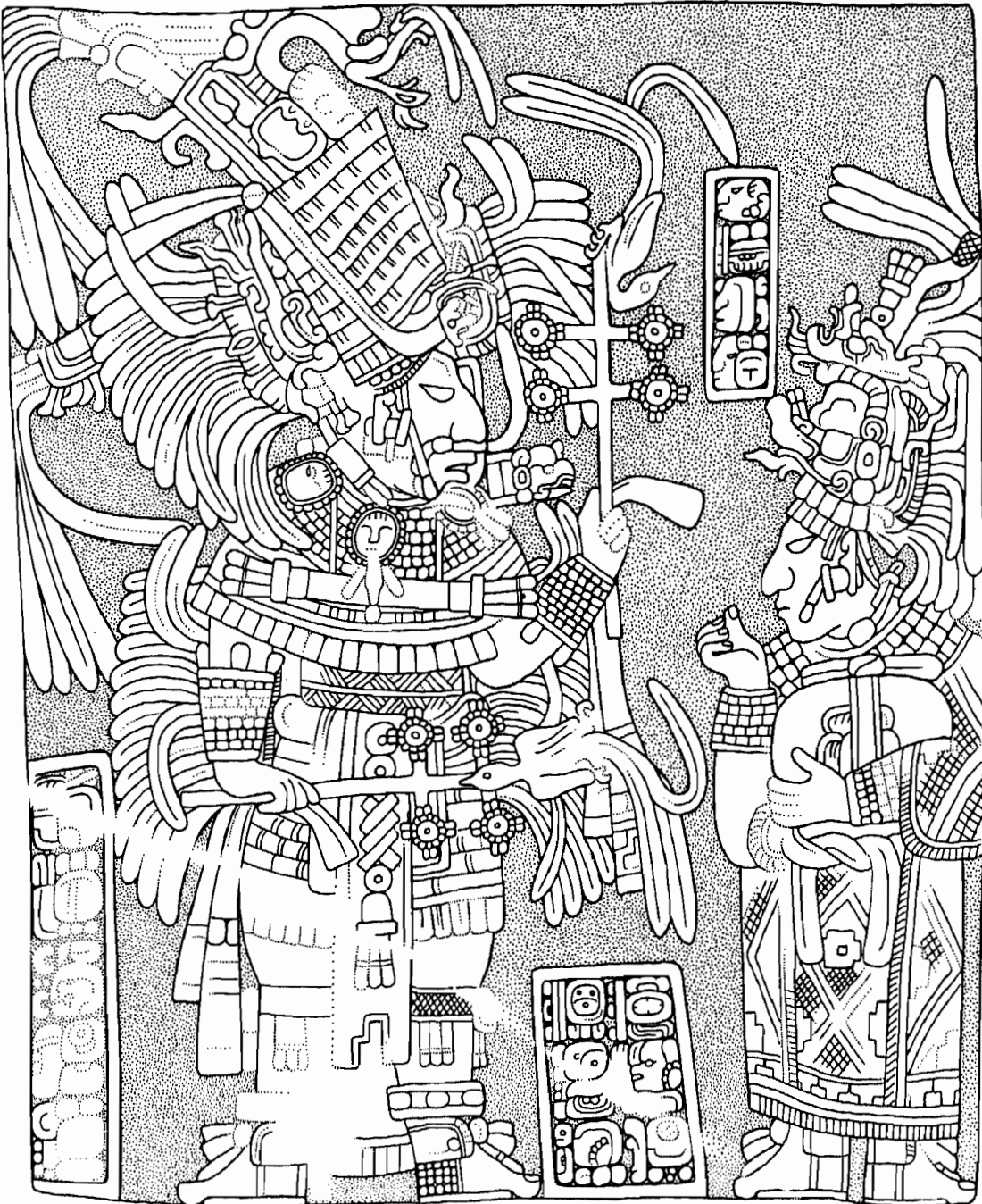
CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on field drawing corrected by artificial light.



A
1
2
3
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5



D
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2
3
4

E

B C
1
2
3

Yaxchilan, Lintel 6

LOCATION Found by Maler in debris in front of the central doorway of the north-facing front of Structure 1.

CONDITION Unbroken. In good condition when found, except for erosion in the area occupied by glyph column A, where the stone was naturally soft, or had become softened. Since discovery, the sculpture has lost some fine detail; erosion of glyph column A and part of the headdress has been severe.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone, flawed by holes.

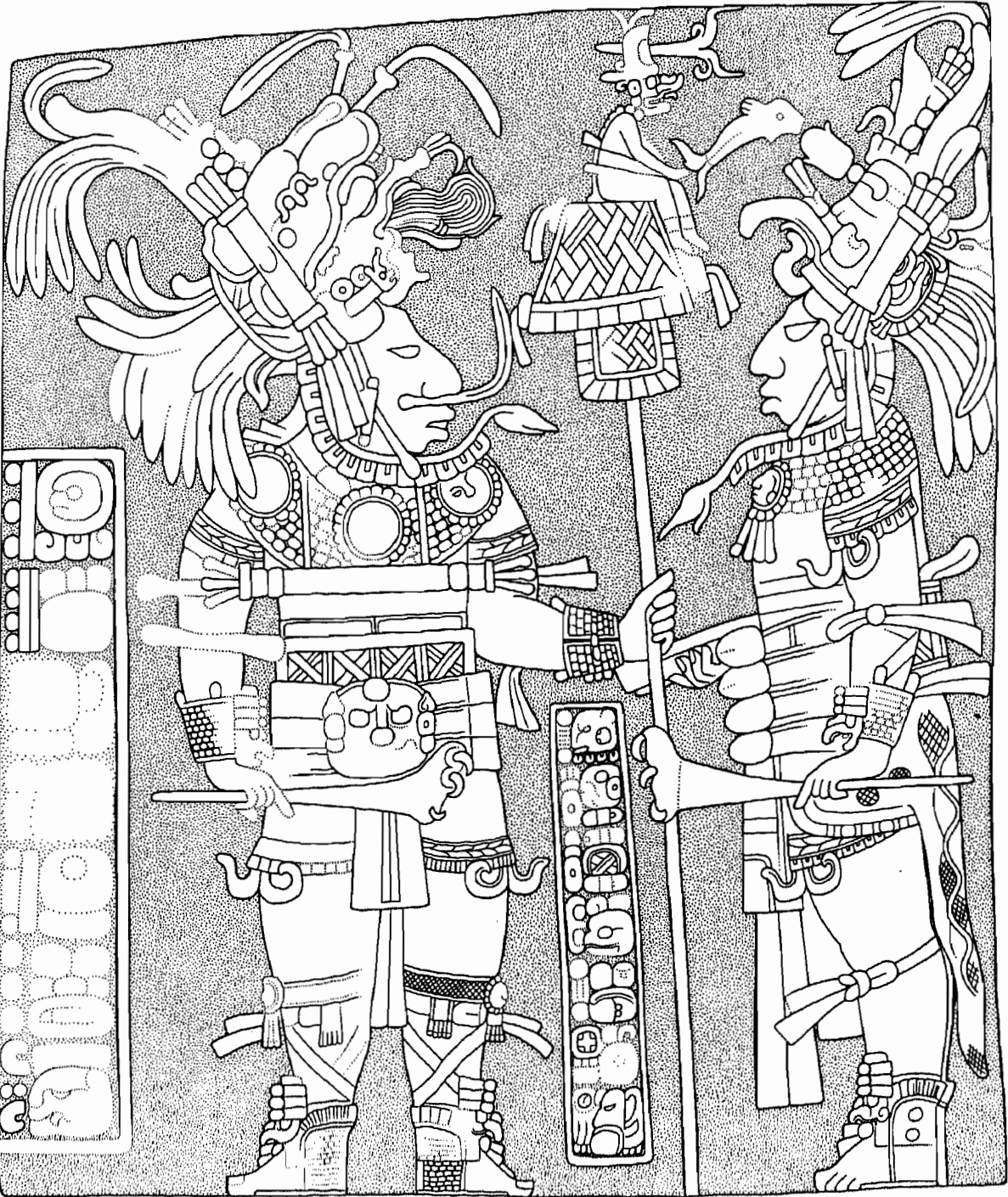
SHAPE Sculptured surface is flat; the sides are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.88 m
	HSc	0.89 m
	WSc	0.79 m
	MTh	0.31 m
	Rel	0.3 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on field drawing corrected by artificial light and on a plaster cast made by Maler.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 7

LOCATION Found by Maler in debris in front of the right (west) doorway of the north-facing front of Structure 1.

CONDITION Unbroken. Moderately eroded when found. A diagonal flaw in the lower central region showed greater erosion; it seems to have existed from the beginning as a depression, since the upper left-hand corner of the glyph panel F-G is carved at a lower level. This and a second, parallel, stratum of soft stone between this panel and the neighboring foot may have dictated the placing and shape of this panel. These two strata have been severely eroded since the lintel was excavated.

MATERIAL Limestone.

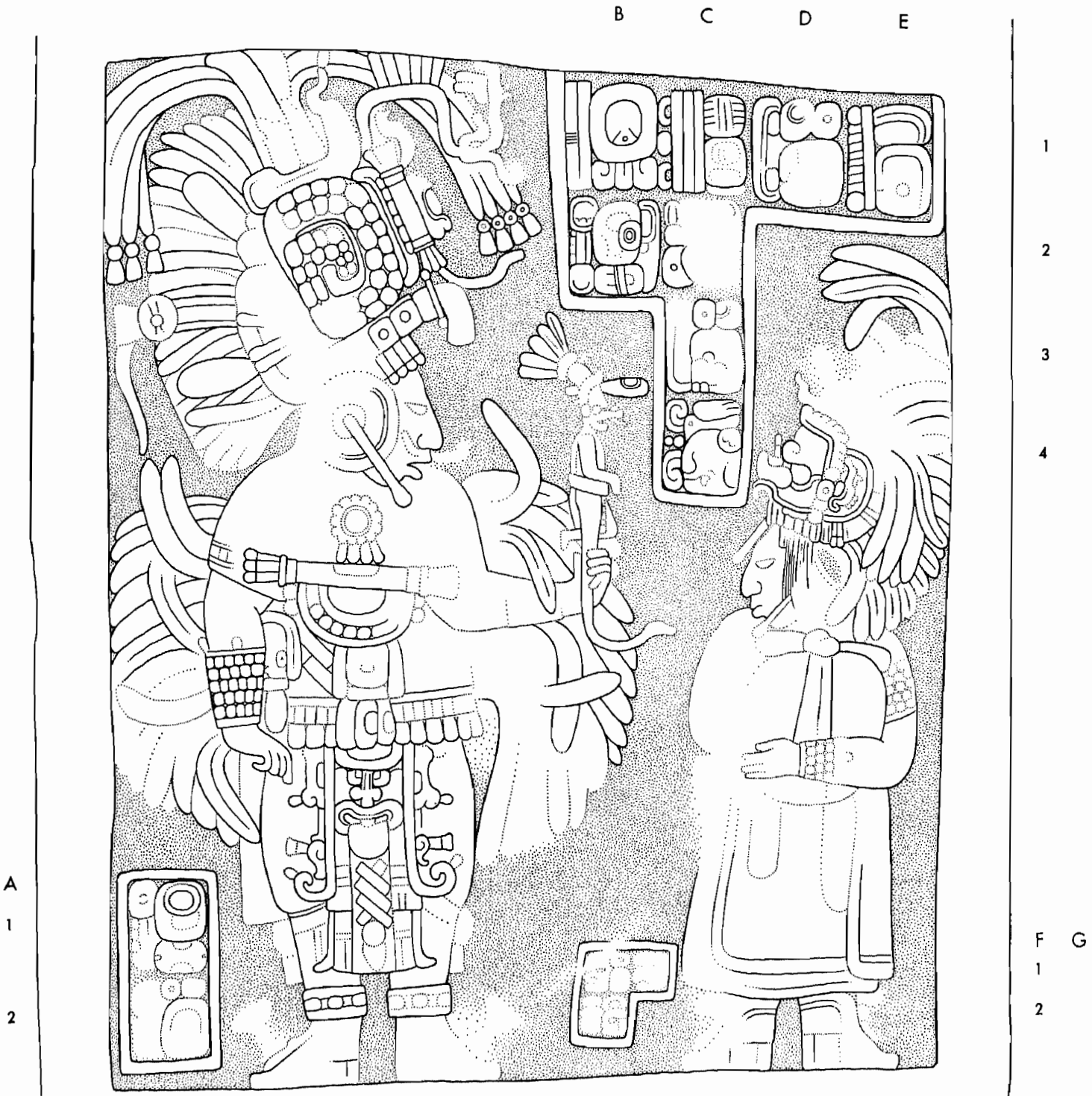
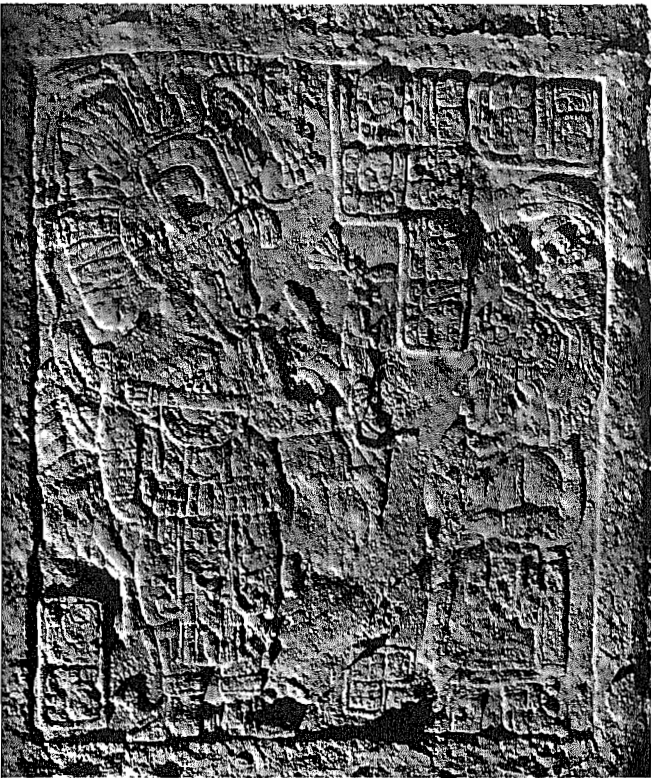
SHAPE The sculptured surface is flat; the sides are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.89 m
	HSc	0.90 m
	WSc	0.75 m
	MTh	0.37 m
	Rel	0.8 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on photographs, and checked against the original.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 8

YAX: Lnt. 8

3:27

LOCATION Found by Maler in debris at the east end of Structure 1.

CONDITION The sculptured area is unbroken. At discovery, some areas of the very low relief showed some loss by weathering. Subsequent erosion has been slight.

MATERIAL Hard limestone, showing some flaws.

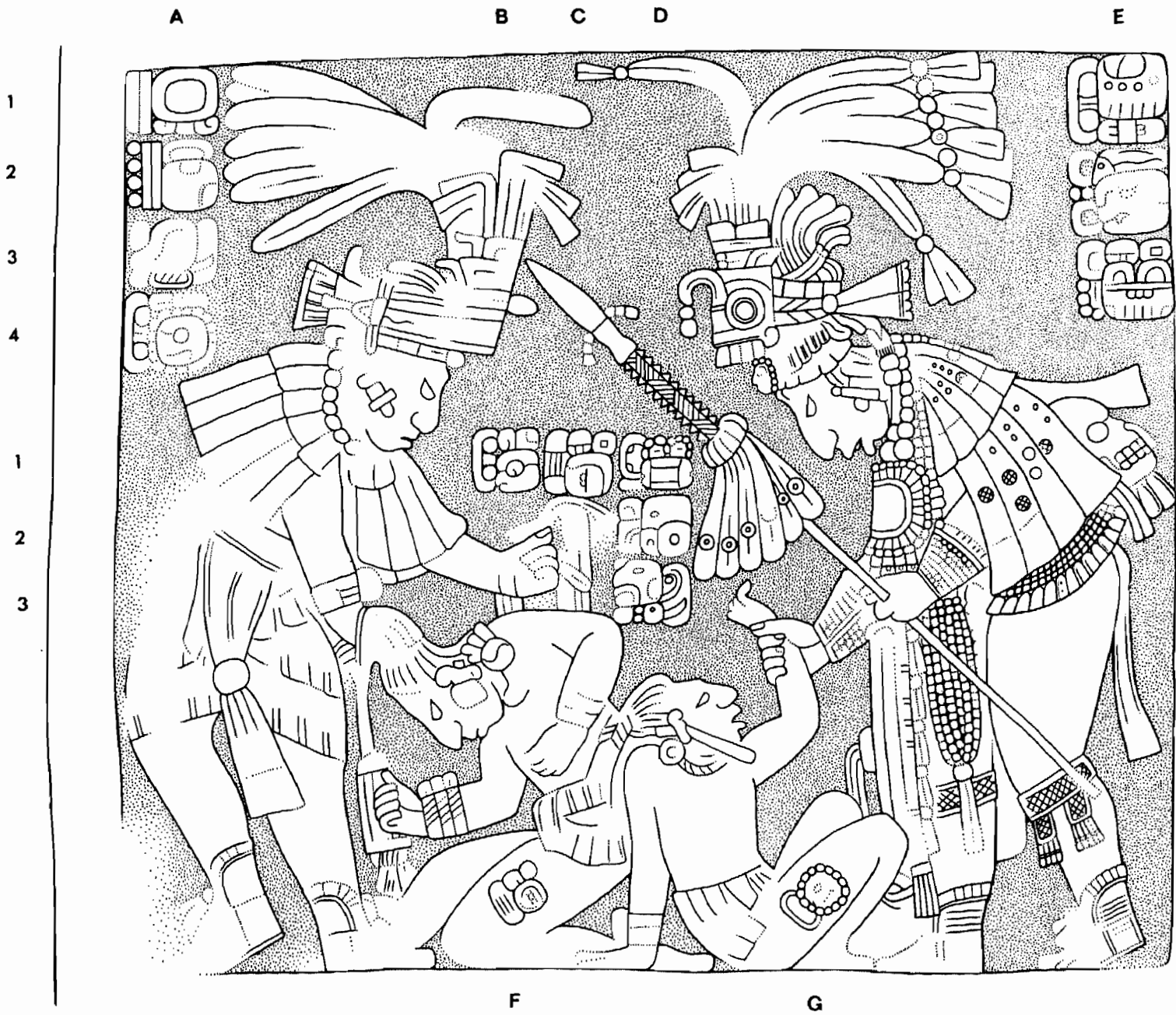
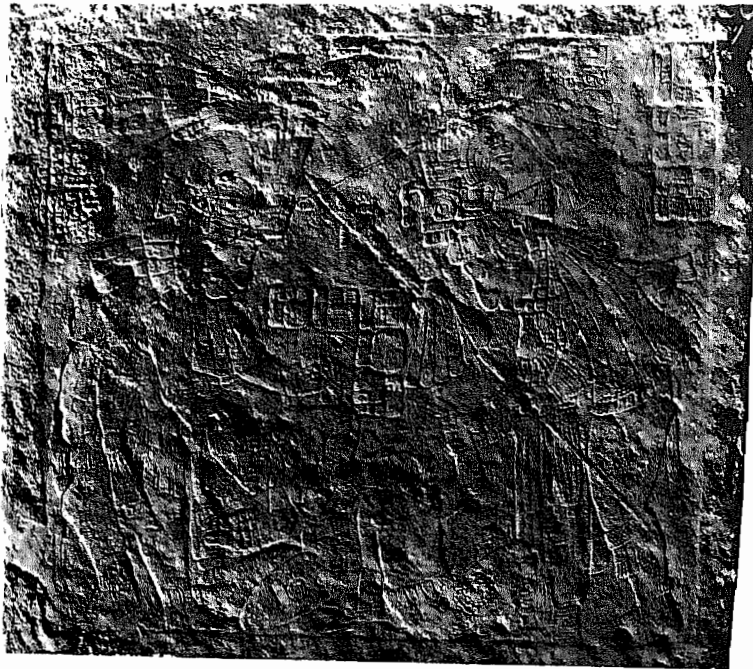
SHAPE The carved surface is flat; the sides are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.99 m
	HSc	0.78 m
	WSc	0.87 m
	MTh	0.30 m
	Rel	0.3 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

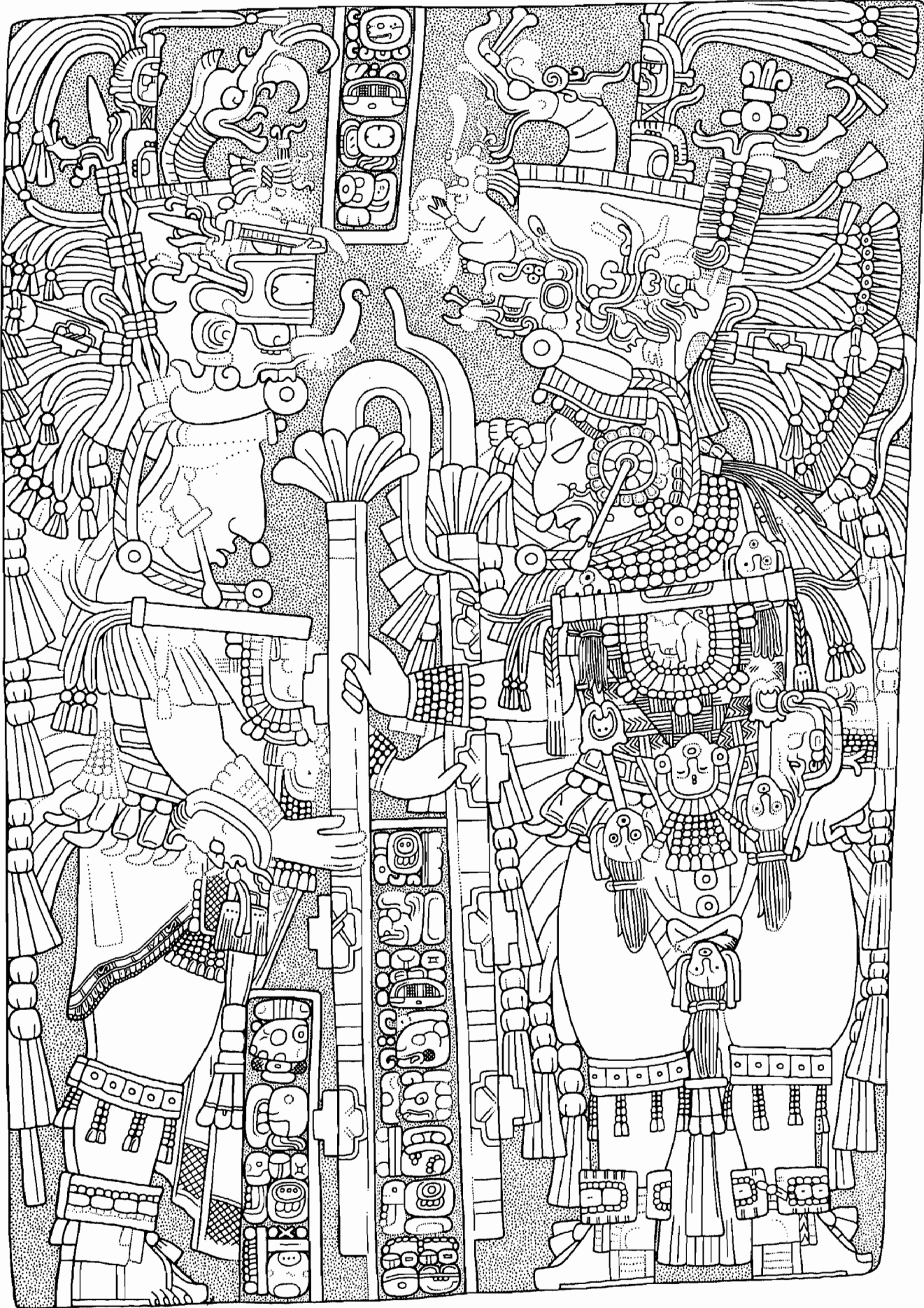
PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on photographs and on a plaster cast made by Maler.



A
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3
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C
1
2
3
4



B
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

LOCATION Found by Maler in debris in front of the single doorway of Structure 2. Removed in 1964 to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City.

CONDITION Unbroken, and in almost pristine condition when found. Subsequent weathering obliterated much fine detail.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE The carved surface is flat; the sides are not quite parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.77 m
	HSc	0.98 m
	WSc	0.66 m
	MTh	0.36 m
	Rel	1.1 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on drawing of original and on Maler's photograph and plaster cast.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 10

LOCATION Found by Maler half-buried in a low mound, Structure 3.

CONDITION Intact, but for a portion broken off and not yet located, resulting in the loss of two-thirds of one glyph-block. The lintel was well preserved at discovery; since then it has lost some fine details due to erosion.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone.

SHAPE Carved surface is flat; one edge is trimmed at a noticeable angle.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.85 m
	HSc	0.78 m
	WSc	0.73 m
	MTh	0.24 m
	Rel	0.4 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1973.

DRAWING Graham, based on field drawing corrected by artificial light and on Maler's plaster cast.



1

2

3

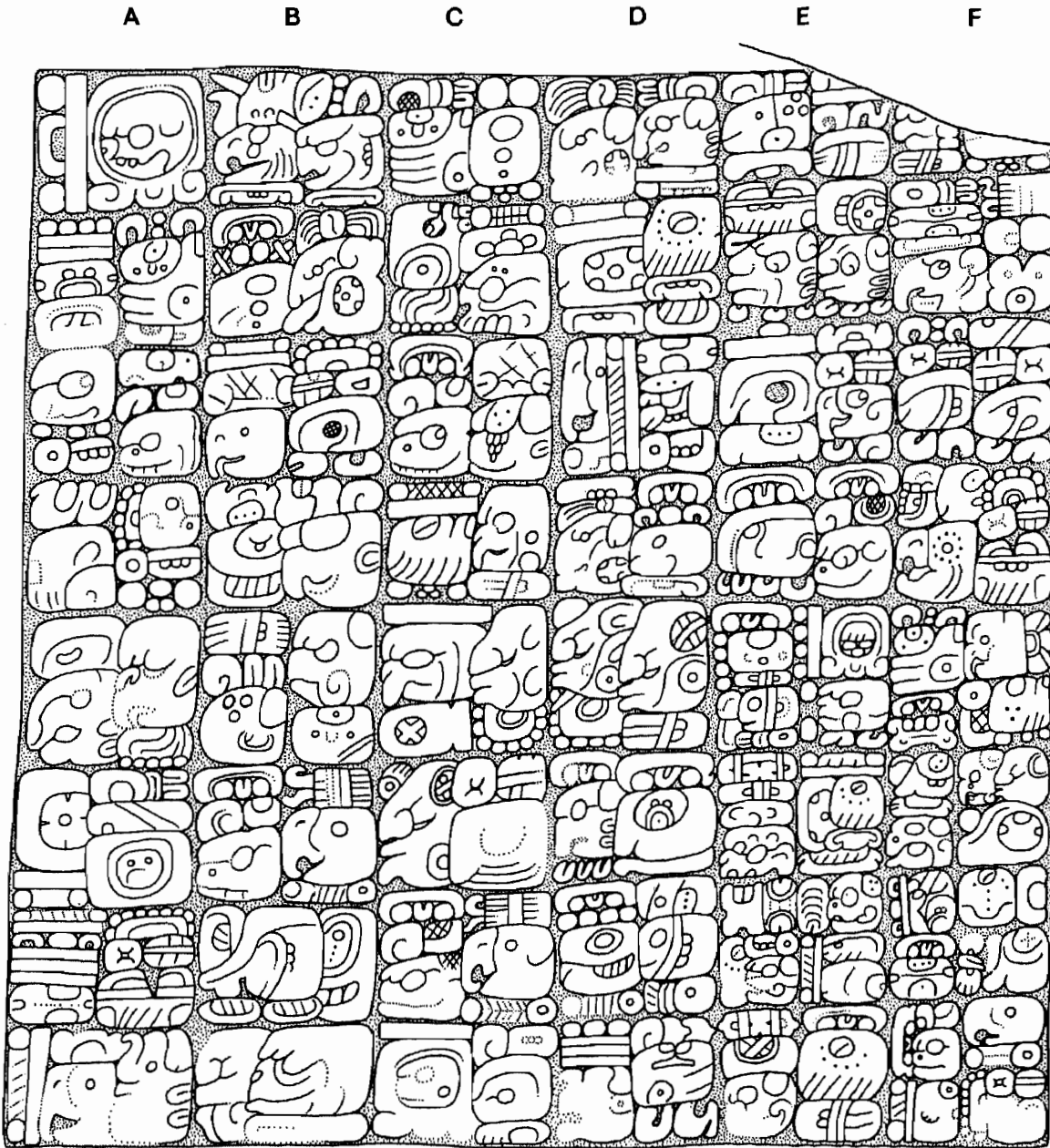
4

5

6

7

8



Yaxchilan, Lintel 12

YAX: Lnt. 12

3:33

LOCATION Found by Maler buried in debris in front of the fallen left (southeast) doorway of Structure 20. Removed in 1964 to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City.

CONDITION Unbroken. A moderate degree of erosion has most seriously affected the hieroglyphic panels, which were carved in very low relief.

MATERIAL Limestone of uneven quality.

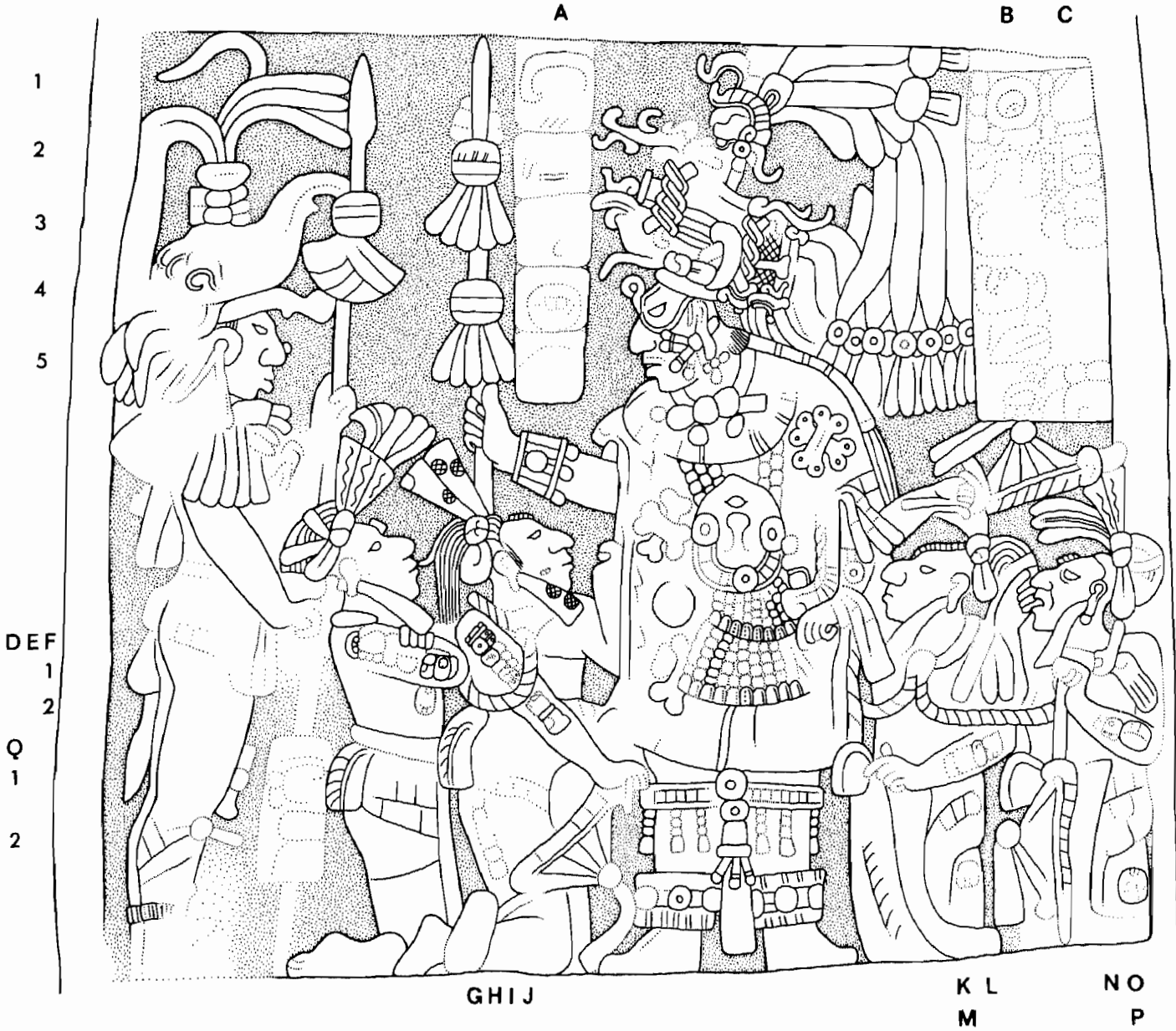
SHAPE The sculptured surface is fairly flat, but shows some flaws, the most noticeable of them being a hollow in the upper right-hand corner; this flaw is clearly visible in the stereophoto. The sides are trimmed in symmetrical convergence toward the top.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.98 m
	HSc	0.79 m
	WSc	0.87 m
	MTh	0.33 m
	Rel	0.8 m

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on a drawing corrected by artificial light and on Morley's photograph.





Glyph columns B&C
Stereophoto

Yaxchilan, Lintel 13

LOCATION When found by Maudslay this lintel had already fallen to the ground from the central doorway of Structure 20.

CONDITION Unbroken, and moderately eroded at the time of discovery. Since then further slight erosion may have occurred, to judge by Morley's photograph taken in 1931.

MATERIAL Limestone of good quality.

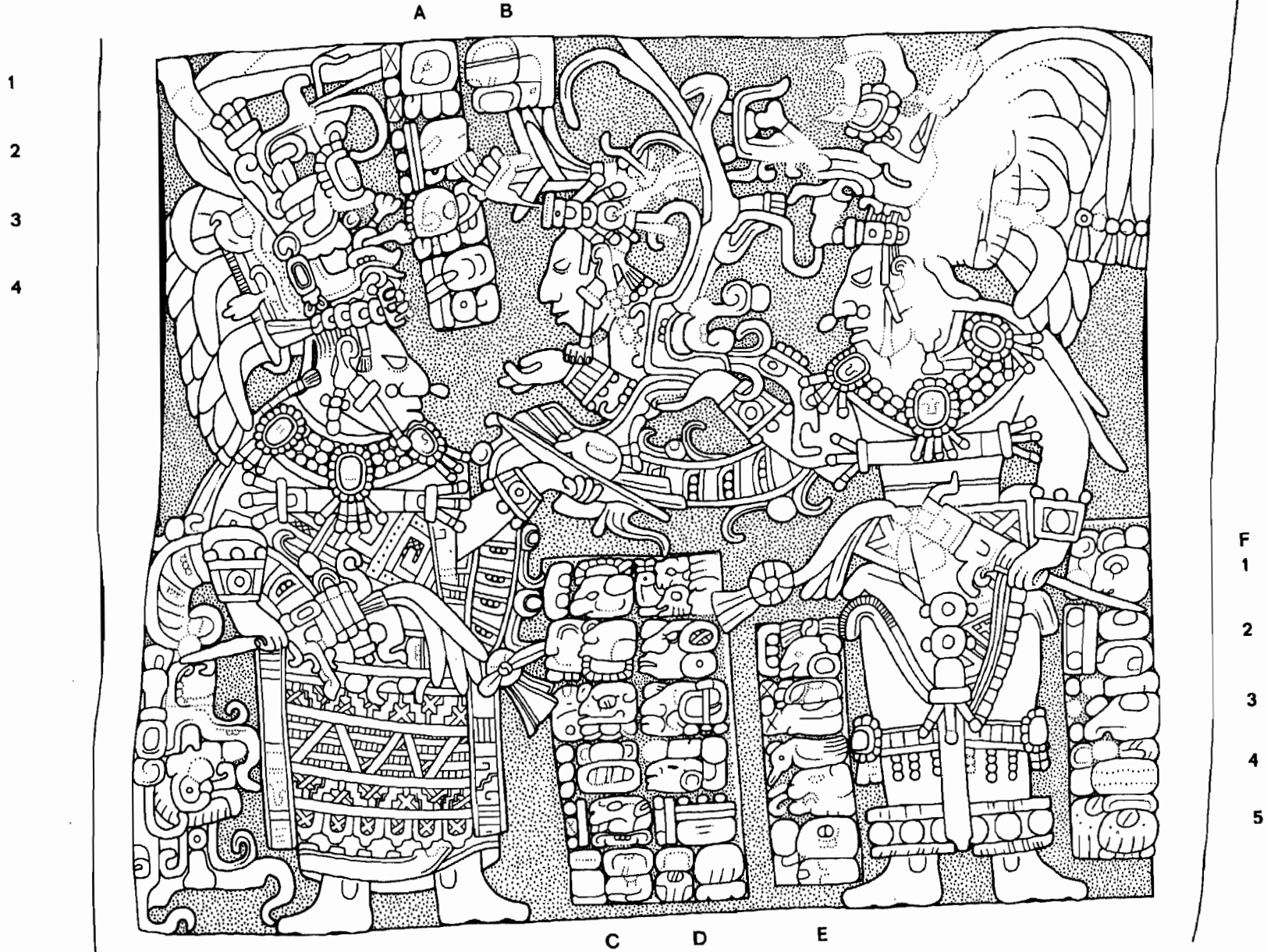
SHAPE The sculptured surface is flat; the edges are irregular and unsymmetrical.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.99 m
	HSc	0.75 m
	WSc	0.88 m
	MTh	0.33 m
	Rel	1.1 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING von Euw, based on plaster casts made by Maudslay and Graham.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 14

LOCATION In situ over the right-hand (northwest) doorway of Structure 20, set with the top of the sculpture oriented toward the southeast.

CONDITION In pristine state.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

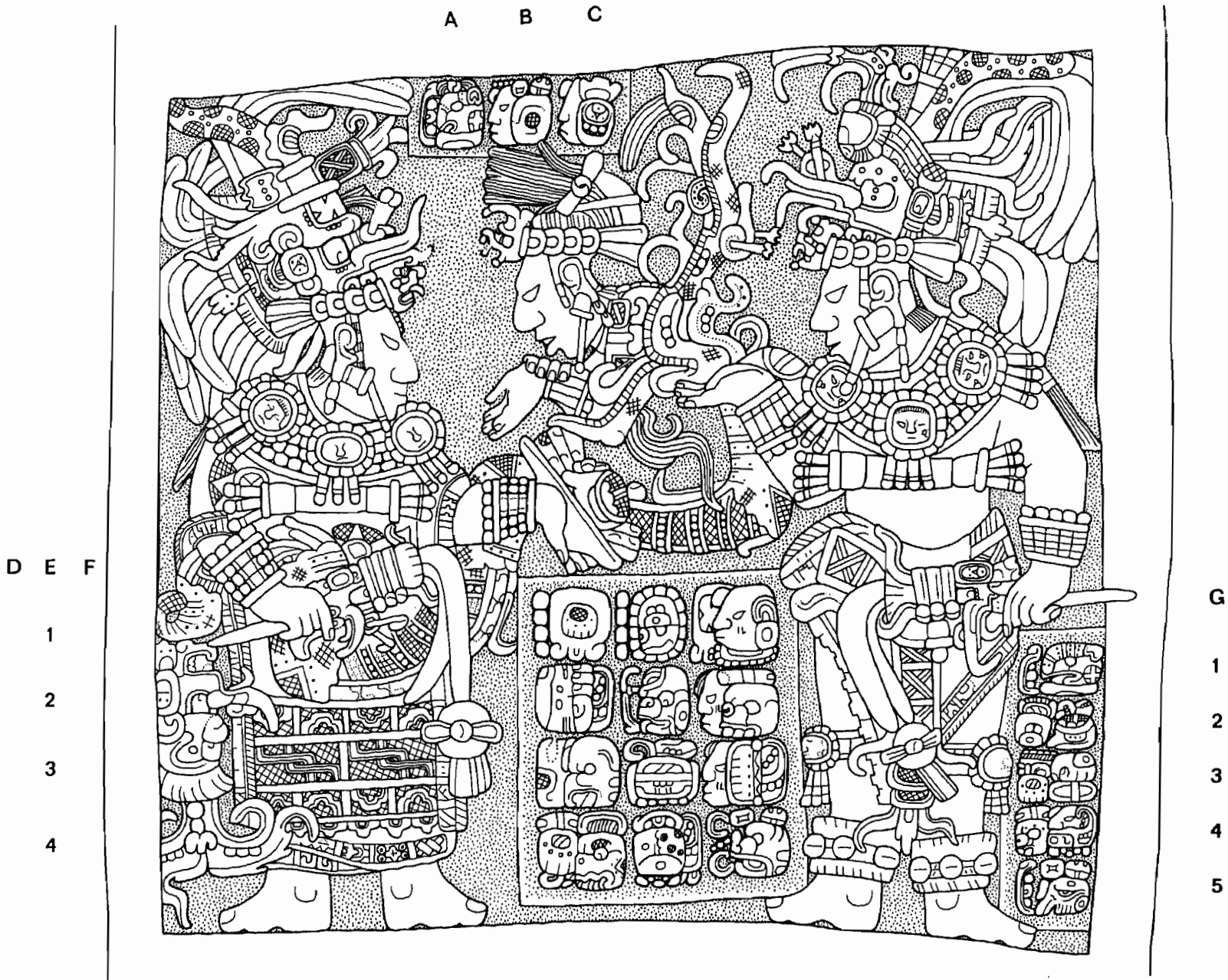
SHAPE The carved surface is flat; the edges are parallel. The border of the sculptured area is by no means rectangular, although the slanting upper and curved lower margins conform well to the masonry jambs upon which the lintel rests.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.91 m
	HSc	0.78 m
	WSc	0.80 m
	MTh	0.32 m
	Rel	1.9 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on plaster cast by von Euw.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 15

LOCATION From the left (southeast) doorway of the central chamber of Structure 21. Maudslay describes the three sculptured lintels of this building as "almost completely buried" at the time of his first visit in 1882. The following year he sent his Guatemalan assistant to dig them out; they are now in the British Museum. It is not clear whether some or all of them had until then been in situ, as Maler believed.

CONDITION Sculptured area sawn from the body of the lintel. There is one clean break across the panel; otherwise the surface is in almost pristine state. Traces of red paint remain on background areas.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE The carved surface is flat; the sides are parallel. The upper and lower margins are inclined in contrary senses.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.83 m
	WSc	0.67 m
	HSc	0.80 m
	MTh	0.08 m (sawn)
	Rel	1.0 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1975.

DRAWING Graham, based on a drawing corrected by artificial light.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 16

LOCATION From the central doorway of Structure 21, from which it was removed to London in 1883 at Maudslay's instance (see comments *supra* on Lintel 15). It is now in the British Museum.

CONDITION Sculptured area sawn from body of the lintel. Surface is in pristine state; there is no trace of paint.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE The carved surface is flat; the edges are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.75 m
	HSc	0.70 m
	WSc	0.60 m
	MTh	0.06 m (sawn)
	Rel	0.7 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1975.

DRAWING Graham, based on drawing of the original.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 17

LOCATION From the right-hand (north-west) doorway of the central chamber of Structure 21, from which it was removed to the British Museum in 1883 at Maudslay's instance (see comments *supra* on Lintel 15).

CONDITION Sculptured area sawn from body of the lintel. The surface is somewhat weathered.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

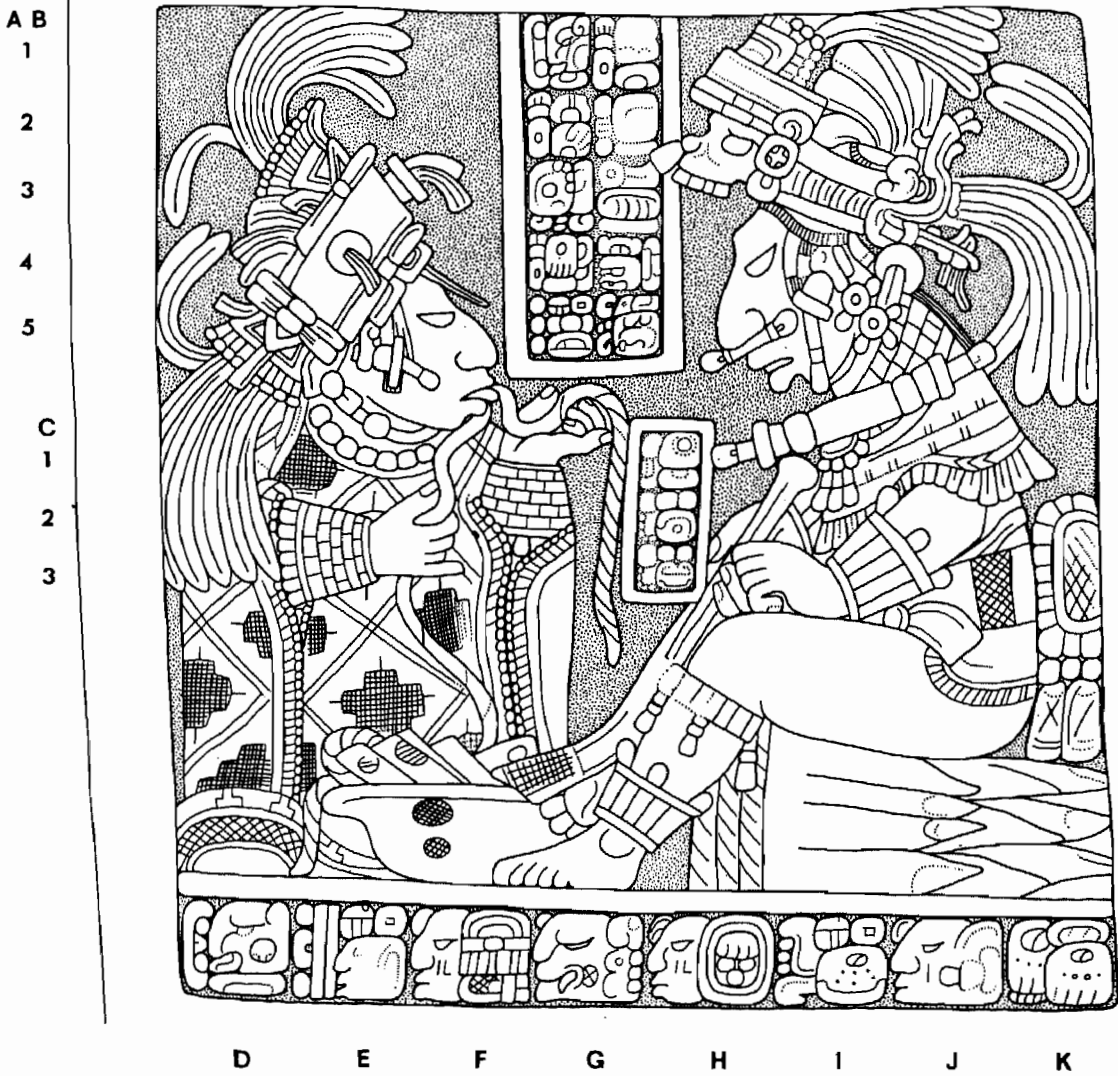
SHAPE The carved surface is slightly concave; the edges are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.74 m
	HSc	0.64 m
	WSc	0.60 m
	MTh	0.05 m (sawn)
	Rel	1.0 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1975.

DRAWING Graham, based on drawing corrected by artificial light.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 18

LOCATION Found by Maler lying behind, perhaps near the south corner of, Structure 22, a building which faces northeast. Maler supposed that it had spanned a rear doorway, whereas Morley assigns it to a doorway in the southeast end of the building. The lintel was removed in 1964 to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City.

CONDITION Intact and well preserved; the stone is pitted, but practically no element of the inscription has been lost.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone.

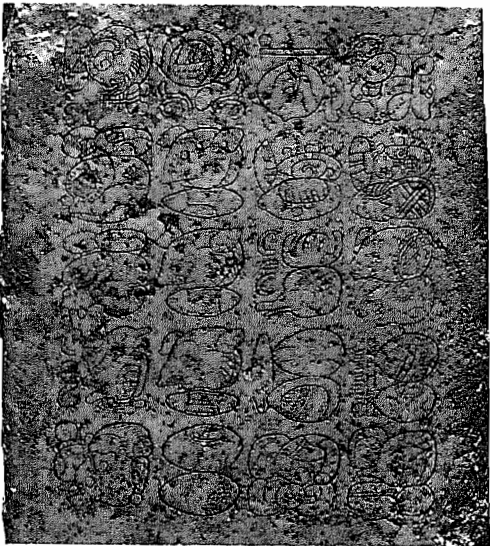
SHAPE A beautifully prepared shaft with parallel sides and rectangular cross sections.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.65 m
	HSc	0.65 m
	WSc	0.49 m
	MTh	0.22 m
	Rel	0.1 cm (approx.)

CARVED AREAS Underside only, with an incised inscription.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1974.

DRAWING Graham, based on a drawing corrected by artificial light.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 20

LOCATION Excavated by Maler from debris in front of the second doorway from the southeast end of the front of Structure 22, according to Morley's interpretation. Satterthwaite's differing view is quoted by Morley (1937-38, vol. 2, p. 390).

CONDITION A fragment only from the "upper" end of the lintel has been found. The surface is badly eroded.

MATERIAL Limestone.

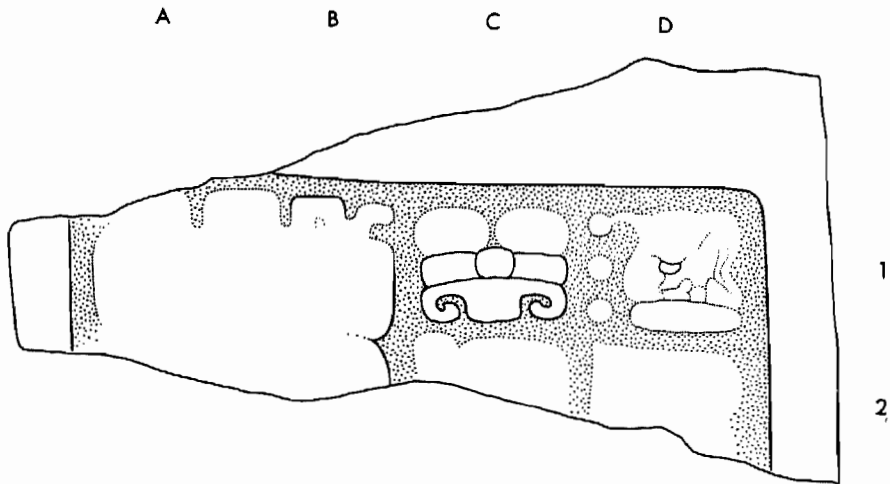
SHAPE No indication from small fragment.

DIMENSIONS	H	0.41 m
	W	0.69 m
	MTh	0.18 m
	Rel	0.5 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Morley, 1931.

DRAWING Graham, based on photograph only. The piece has not been examined by him.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 21

LOCATION Excavated by Maler from debris in front of the central doorway of Structure 22.

CONDITION When discovered, this lintel was cleanly broken across the middle; otherwise it was very well preserved, and remains so.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone.

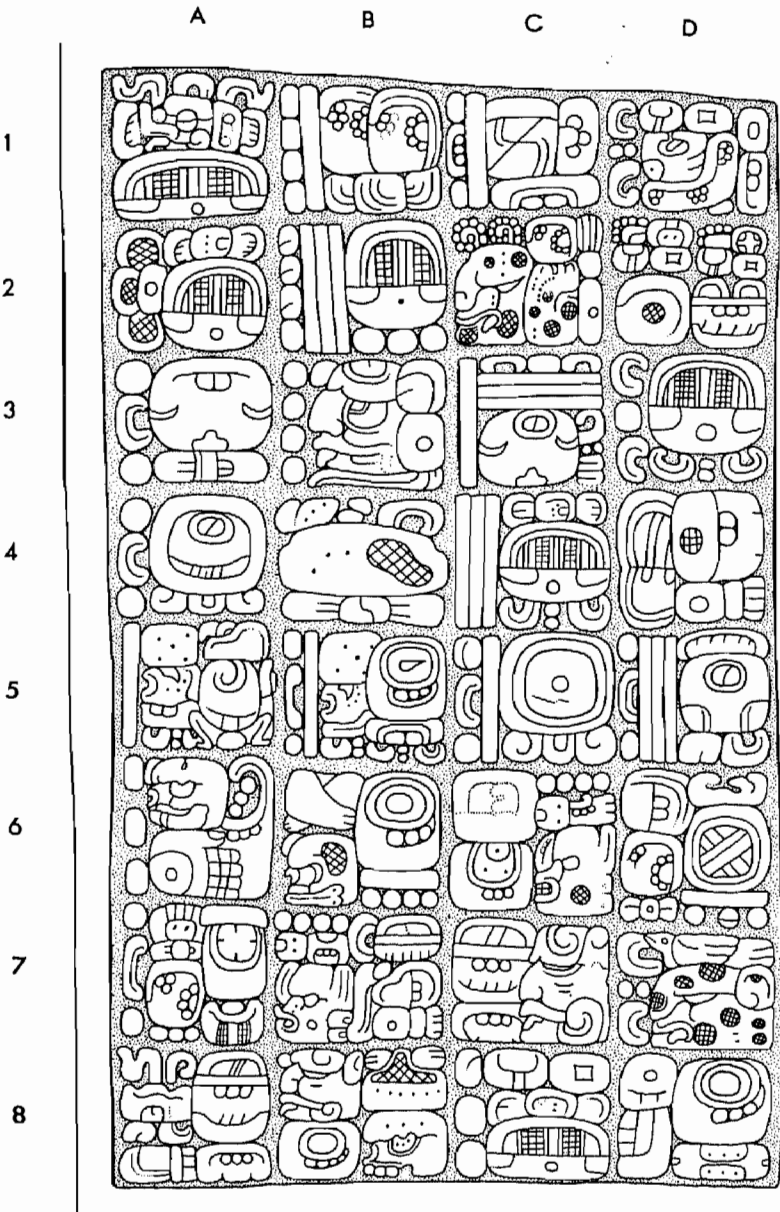
SHAPE Carved surface is flat; the sides are parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.66 m
	HSc	0.99 m
	WSc	0.59 m
	MTh	0.20 m
	Rel	0.4 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Morley, 1931.

DRAWING von Euw, based on a field drawing corrected by artificial light.



Yaxchilan, Lintel 22

LOCATION Found by Maler in rubble in front of Structure 22. According to Morley, who cites some excavations by Ruppert, the front of this building had five doorways, the three central ones being spanned by carved lintels. Lintel 22 is assigned to the doorway immediately to the right, i.e., northwest, of the central opening.

CONDITION Broken at the top of the sculptured area, with slight loss of glyphic detail. When first discovered, the state of preservation varied from excellent near the top to very poor at bottom right. Further weathering has caused the loss of the red paint noted by Maler and of some fine detail.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone.

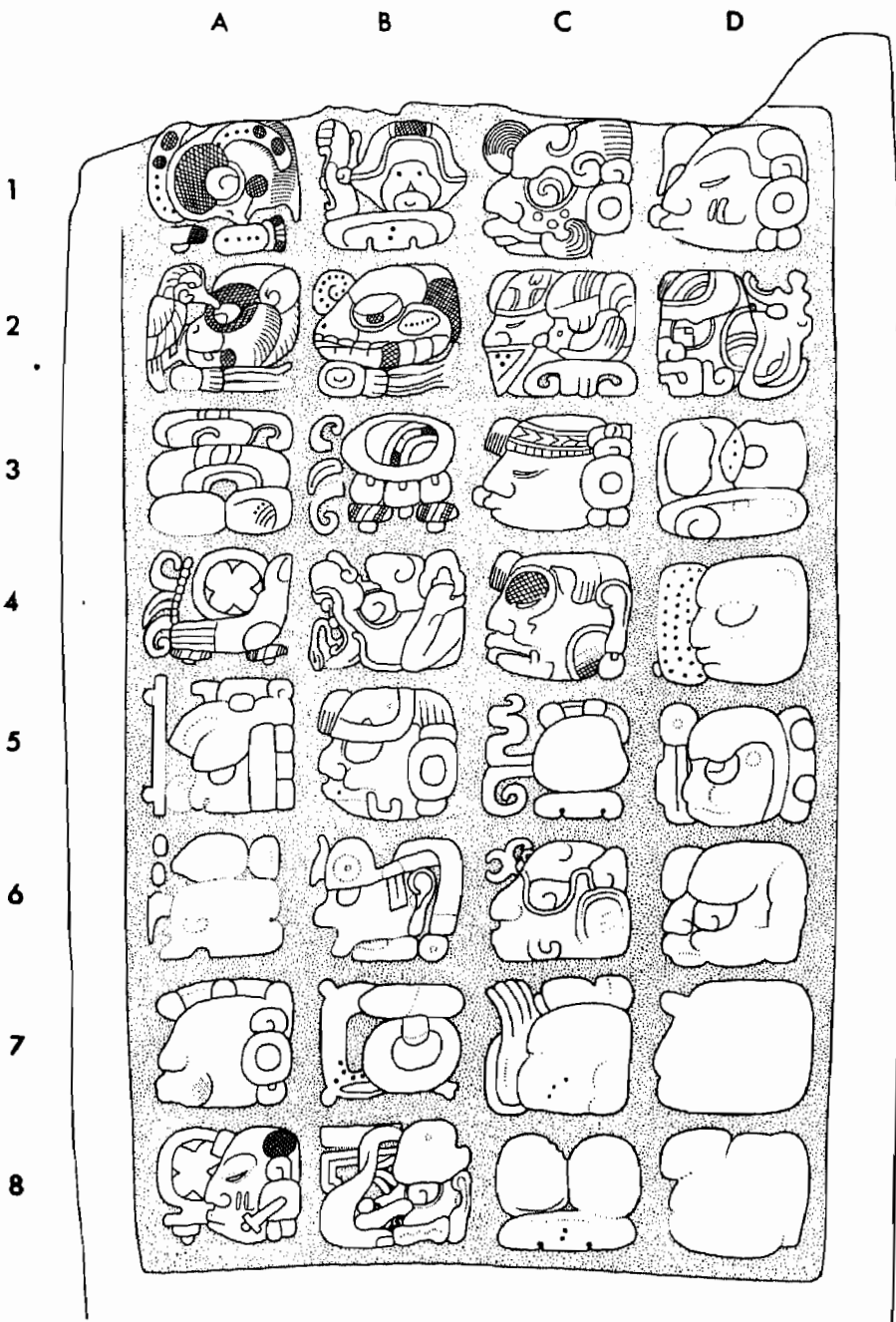
SHAPE Carved area is flat; the edges are slightly bowed, but essentially parallel.

DIMENSIONS	MW	0.68 m
	HSc	0.98 m
	WSc	0.58 m
	MTh	0.19 m
	Rel	1.8 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside only.

PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1971.

DRAWING von Euw, based on a field drawing corrected by artificial light.





LOCATION From the left (southeast) doorway of Structure 23. Notations by Maudslay on a manuscript and hand-colored draft of his published plan of the ruins, preserved in the Department of Ethnography, British Museum, dispose of Morley's doubts about the relative positions of Lintels 24 and 25. This lintel was brought to England by Maudslay in 1882, and reposes in the British Museum.

CONDITION The lintel has been trimmed down on all four sides of the carved area on the underside. The surface of this is in pristine state, with blue paint showing on the background in several places. The inscription on the front is destroyed. Maudslay's entry in his journal (British Museum, Dept. of Ethnography) for March 19, 1882, makes it clear that he was not to blame for this: "In afternoon found the fallen carved lintel on which Rockstroh had broken his axes — set men to work to shave it down."

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE The carved surface is somewhat convex.

DIMENSIONS MW unknown
HSc 1.04 m
WSc 0.74 m
MTh unknown
Rel 4.5 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside and front.

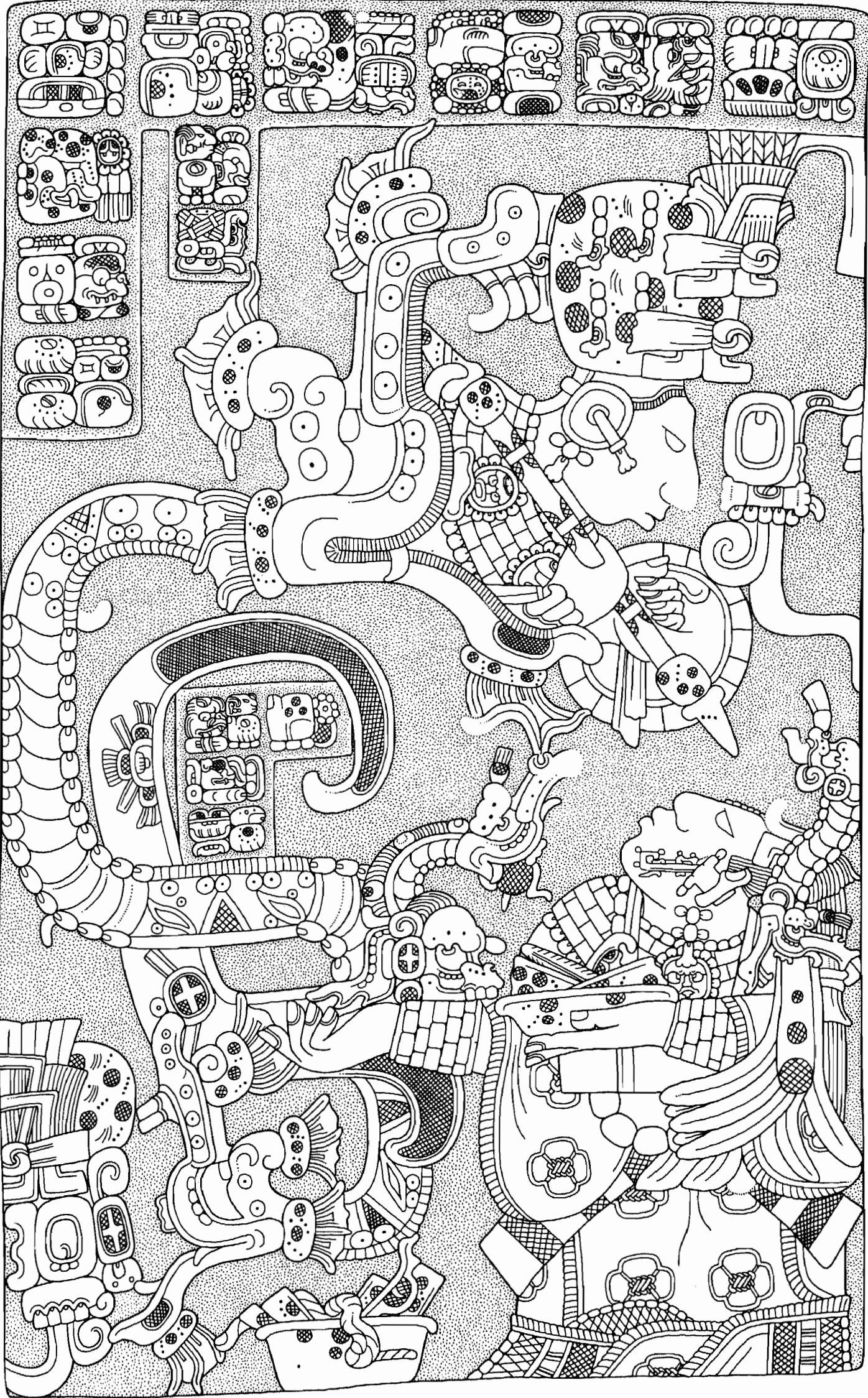
PHOTOGRAPH Graham, 1976.

DRAWING Graham, based on a drawing of the original, corrected by artificial light.

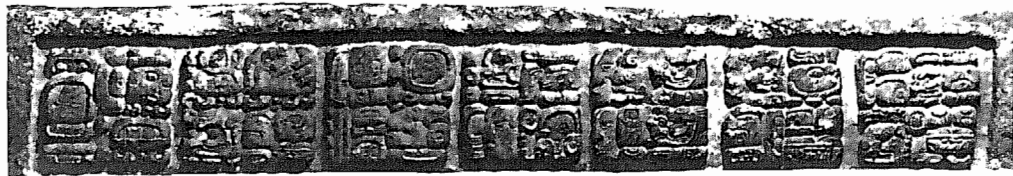


NOTE The single sequence of glyph-block lettering applied by Morley to Lintels 25, 24, and 26, in that order, has been discarded here in favor of individual lettering for each lintel. The following is a concordance between Morley's lettering (cited first) and that employed here:

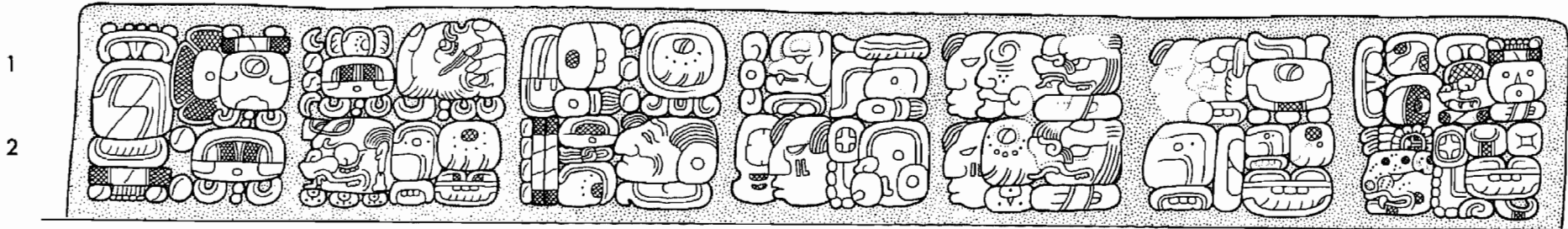
X	A
Y	B
Z	C
A'	D
B'	E
C'	F
D'	G
E'	H



LOCATION From the central doorway of Structure 23. At Maudslay's instance the carved areas on the underside and the front edge were sawn off by his assistant in 1883 and sent to London. They are now in the British Museum.



J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W



Front edge

CONDITION The sculptured areas are intact and in pristine condition. No remains of paint are visible.

MATERIAL Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE The carved surfaces are convex cylindrically, the axes in both cases coinciding with the long dimension.

DIMENSIONS

Underside:	MW	0.85 m
	HSc	1.18 m
	WSc	0.74 m
	MTh	0.07 m (actual)
	MTh	0.29 m (reconstructed)
Front:	Rel	3.2 cm
	HSc	0.18 m
	WSc	1.22 m
	Rel	1.8 cm

CARVED AREAS Underside and front edge.

PHOTOGRAPHS Graham, 1976.

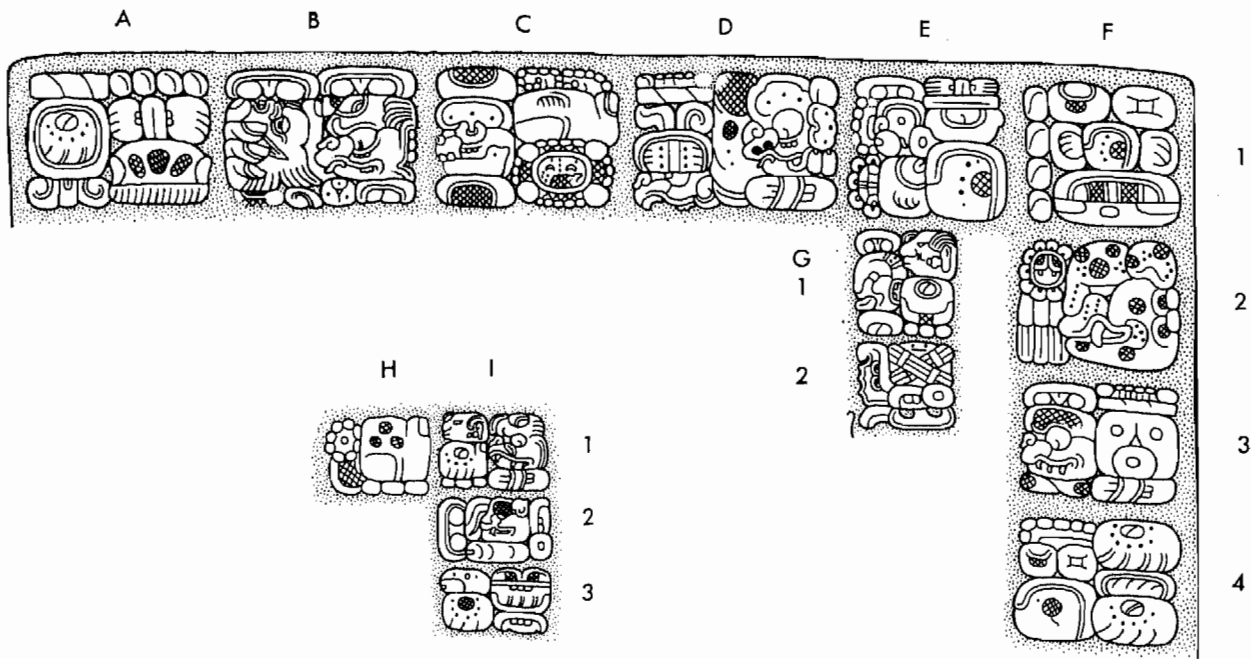
DRAWINGS Graham, based on drawings from the original, corrected by artificial light.



NOTE The inscriptions on the underside of this lintel run from right to left. For convenience they have been separately reproduced in reverse, so that they read in the normal direction. For some unknown reason Morley's lettering does not follow the order of reading, thus adding to the confusion in this instance. Since the other two lintels from the same building have been relettered in this work, the lettering of this lintel will also be rectified.

The following is a concordance between Morley's lettering and that employed here:

A	F	F	A
B	E	G	G
C	D	H	I
D	C	I	H
E	B		



Inscription, reversed

O P Q R S T U V W X



LOCATION

Excavated by Maler from debris in front of the right-hand (northwest) doorway of Structure 23. Removed in 1964 to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City.

CONDITION

Broken in half when found. Underside: the upper half was in pristine condition, still showing traces of blue paint; the lower half was quite badly eroded. Since discovery, erosion of the upper half has been slight; that of the lower half has been more noticeable. Front edge: when found, several areas had split off from three of the seven glyph-blocks; otherwise, it was in good condition. Since then the surviving portion of the second glyph-block has been lost, and the rest has deteriorated. At some time before Morley photographed the lintel in 1931 an attempt had been made to saw off the “upper” end of the lintel.

MATERIAL

Fine yellowish limestone.

SHAPE

Carved surface is slightly convex; the sides are parallel.

DIMENSIONS

Underside:

MW0.85 m

HSc1.07 m

WSc0.77 m

MTh0.27 m

Rel4.3 cm

Front edge:

HSc0.19 m

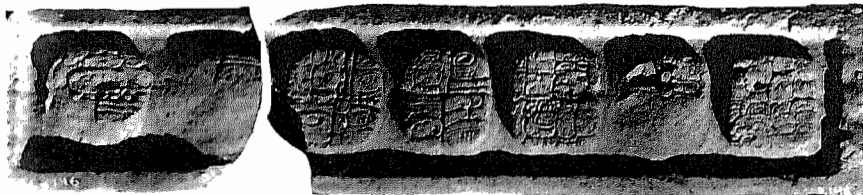
WSc1.06 m

CARVED AREAS

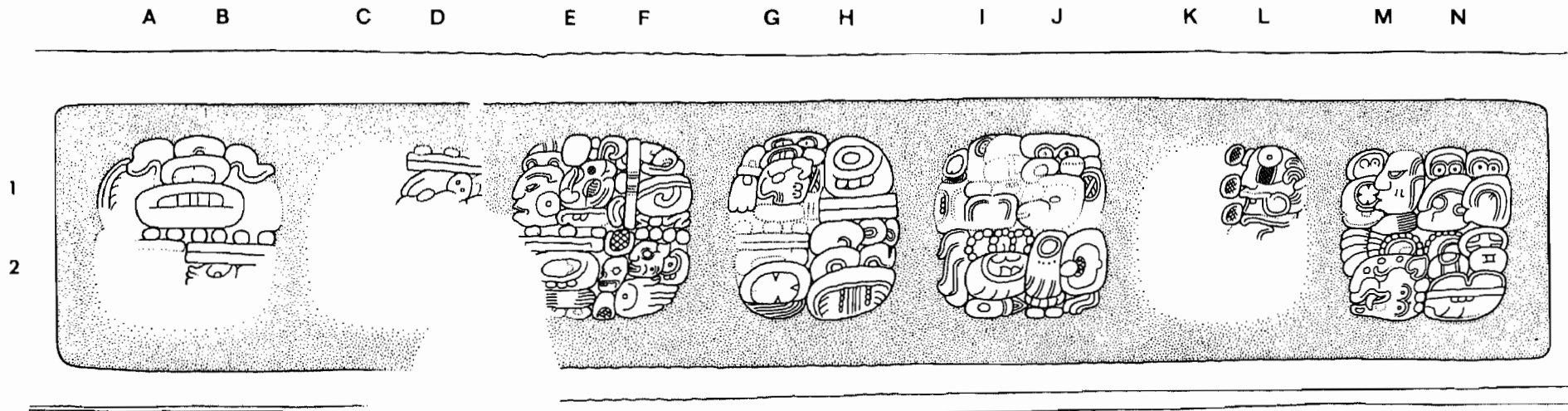
Underside and front edge.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Underside and front: reproduced from Maler’s original negatives of 1900. The two parts of his photograph of the front edge have been repositioned to correspond with the spacing established by the repair of the lintel.



Front edge



DRAWINGS

Graham, based on drawings of the original, corrected by artificial light, and on Maler’s and Morley’s photographs.

NOTE 1

The single sequence of glyph-block lettering applied by Morley to Lintels 25, 24, and 26, in that order, has been discarded here in favor of individual lettering for each lintel. The following is a concordance between Morley’s lettering (cited first) and that employed here:

F’

G’

H’

I’

J’

K’

L’

M’

N’

O’

P’

Q’

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

A

B

R’

S’

T’

U’

V’

W’

X’

Y’

Z’

A’’

B’’

C’’

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

NOTE 2

In neither Maler’s nor in any of Morley’s photographs can the coefficient of glyph D1 be made out clearly. Morley states that it is definitely 12, and that still seems the best reading, but 13 is a bare possibility, which the drawing is intended to convey.

LOCATION

Excavated by Maler from debris in front of the left-hand (southwest) doorway of Structure 24.

CONDITION

Intact, and fairly well preserved.

MATERIAL

Limestone.

SHAPE

The shape of the lintel as a whole was not recorded.

DIMENSIONS

HSc0.20 m

WSc1.07 m

MTh0.35 m

Rel0.5 cm

CARVED AREAS

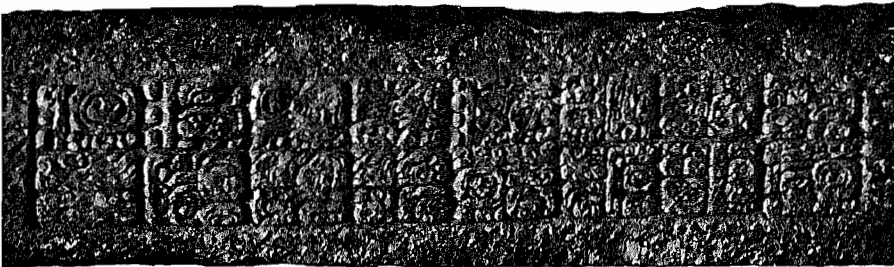
Front edge only.

PHOTOGRAPH

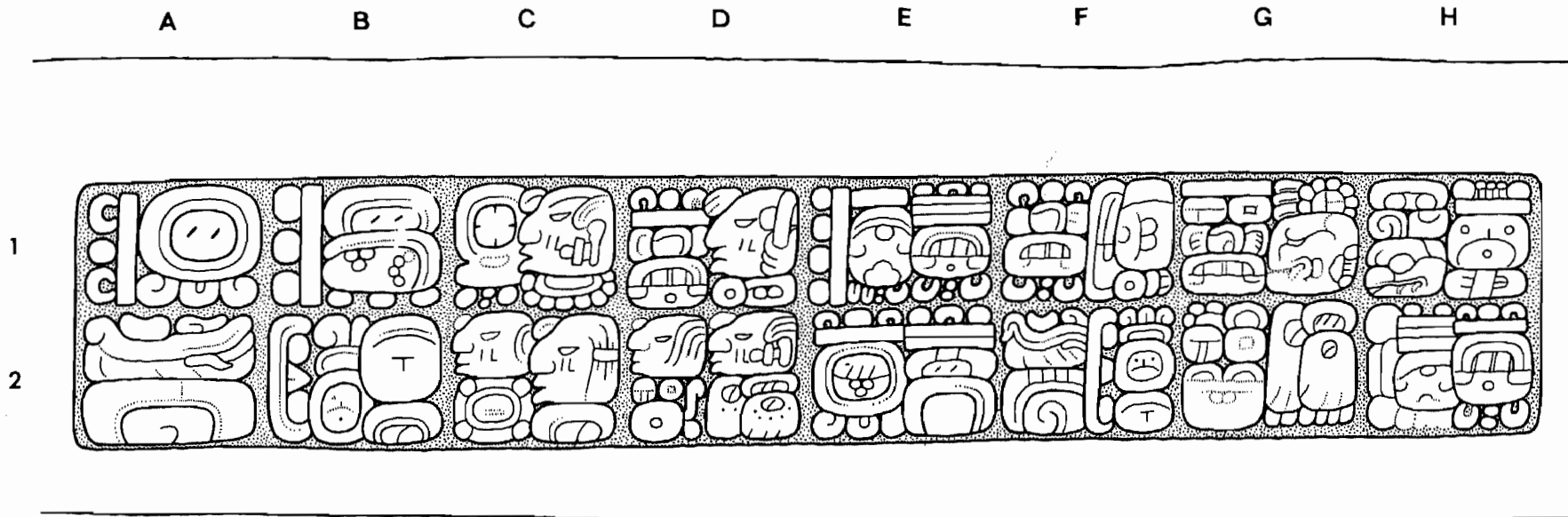
Graham, 1973.

DRAWING

Graham, based on a field drawing corrected by artificial light.



Front edge



Yaxchilan, Lintel 28

YAX: Lnt. 28

3:61

LOCATION Found by Maler on the surface in front of the right-hand (northeast) doorway of Structure 24, the central doorway of which was spanned by Lintel 59.

CONDITION Intact, and fairly well preserved at one end.

MATERIAL Limestone.

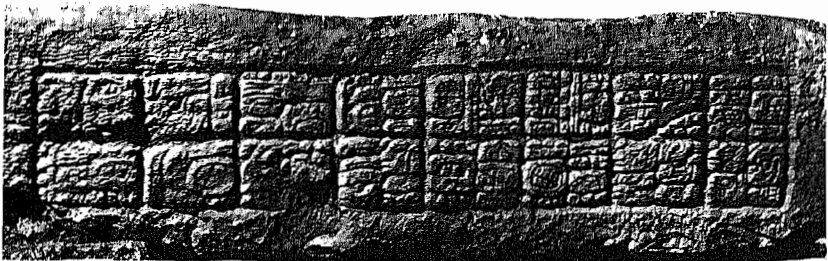
SHAPE The shape of the lintel as a whole was not recorded.

DIMENSIONS HSc 0.21 m
WSc 1.08 m
MTh 0.37 m
Rel 0.5 cm

CARVED AREAS Front edge only.

PHOTOGRAPH Reproduced from Maler's original negative of 1900.

DRAWING Graham, based on a field drawing corrected by artificial light.



Front edge

